2251

Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2251

APR 8 1986

February 27, 1986

WHEAT ACREAGE LIKELY DOWN

Wheat production in 1986 may total close to 1985's 2.4 billion bushels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although fewer acres likely will be harvested this summer, producers will plant their more productive acres, offsetting the acreage cut. Estimated winter wheat seedings were reported at 54 million acres, 7 pct. less than for 1985 and the smallest area in 7 years. By 1986/87, lower U.S. prices may make American wheat more competitive in the world wheat market. However, the situation of record U.S. supplies may not be altered dramatically. (For more information, call Allen Schienbein at 202-786-1840.)

CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN

The Jan. 1 cattle inventory at 105½ million head, was the lowest since 1963, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The percentage of heifers calving and entering the herd remained low. Beef cow numbers were the lowest since 1966, and with 7 pct. fewer beef replacement heifers than a year ago, cattle numbers are likely to decline through 1987. Sharply lower feed costs and an under-utilized but expanding forage base should lower production costs. The production base for beef has eroded to a point that beef supplies should decline through 1988, even though the proportion of the herd slaughtered remains large. (For more information, call John Nalivka at 202-786-1830.)

HOGS DOWN

Hog numbers are at their lowest level since 1966, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The breeding herd is the lowest since 1961, but has not reduced pork supplies as much as might be expected. The number of pigs produced per 1,000 breeding animals is up sharply and pork imports have more than doubled in recent years. Higher hog prices and lower feed costs should allow the average farrow-to-finish producer to cover cash and replacement costs for the first time since 1982. (For more information, call Leland Southard at 202-786-1830.)

U.S. SOYBEANS TO USSR

For the week ending Feb. 6, private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 61,000 tons of soybeans for delivery to the USSR during the 1985/86 marketing year. Sales of soybeans to the USSR for this year now total just over 1 million tons. This is the largest volume of U.S. soybean exports to the USSR since 1978/79. USDA forecasts Oct.-Sept. 1985/86 soybean imports by the USSR from all sources at 1.7 million tons.

United States Department of Agriculture — Office of Information
Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

SPAIN STOCKPILES U.S. CORN

Spanish purchases of U.S. corn during Oct. 1985-Jan. 1986 were nearly double the same period a year earlier as traders stockpiled grain in anticipation of the higher European Community import levy which will be implemented on March 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Spain is now subject to the levy since it joined the EC. The levy will increase the price of corn Spain imports and likely will result in a sharp decline in corn imports from non-EC sources such as the U.S. Spain imports an average of 3.5 million metric tons per year, or about 8 pct. of all U.S. corn exports. In 1985/86, Spain is expected to import only 1.8 million tons, the lowest in nearly 15 years.

LESS CORN TO BRAZIL

Brazil's reported decision to substitute 650,000 tons of Argentine corn for wheat not shipped under the bilateral agreement between the two countries will reduce the potential for U.S. corn sales to Brazil, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Argentine sale is nearly double its previous record corn exports to Brazil set in 1983/84. Eventual prospects for U.S. corn exports will depend on the impact of the current drought, the availability of U.S. credit and Brazil's domestic coarse grain price policies.

CANADA EXPORTS FEED WHEAT

Canada's recent sale of 100,000 metric tons of feed wheat to Mexico provides additional evidence that U.S. corn and sorghum exports will face increased competition from large supplies of Canadian feed-quality wheat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Poor harvest conditions last fall resulted in about 13 pct. of Canada's estimated 23.9 million ton wheat crop being downgraded to feed quality. Normally, about 5 pct. of the crop is feed quality.

AG TRADE 51 PCT. BELOW 1984

The U.S. agricultural trade surplus feel to $9.1 billion in 1985, 51 pct. below 1984 and the lowest since 1972, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Exports dropped record amounts in value and volume, and imports continued to climb. The volume dropped 28 million tons to 118.7 million tons. The lower volume and declining world prices reduced value $8.7 billion to $29 billion. The import value rose $640 million to $20 billion.

MAJOR FARM EXPORTERS

The United States, France, the The Netherlands remained the top three agricultural exporters during 1979-84, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Brazil moved from fifth to fourth place in 1984 due to sharply increased coffee export values. Argentina jumped from 11th to 9th place because of improved grain and soybean exports and replaced Italy among the 10 leading exporters.

NEWCOMERS BUZZING IN

Africanized bees, noted for their aggressive stinging behavior, were predicted to enter Mexico by the end of 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By 1989, they are expected to cross the Rio Grande into the United States. These bees are an economic threat to the $130 million U.S. honey producing industry because they tend to take over the hives of domesticated European strains. Africanized bees are less efficient honey producers and more difficult to manage. This also would affect U.S. farmers who depend on honeybees for pollinating an estimated $18 billion worth of fruits, vegetables, and field crops.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY OUTLOOK...USDA economist Leland Southard focuses on the current outlook for livestock and poultry in light of the new farm bill and the deficit reduction act. Vic Powell interviews. (131)

U.S. EXPORTS OUTLOOK...The value and volume of U.S. exports has declined for the past five years, and indicators for 1986 point to another year of continued decline. USDA economist Stephen MacDonald examines reasons for the continued decline. Vic Powell interviews. (132)

1986 COTTON PROGRAM...USDA economist Sam Evans describes the major provisions provided for the 1986 cotton program, including target prices, loan rates and deficiency payments and what these provisions will means for cotton producers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (133)

DAIRY AND CATTLE INDUSTRY - AN OUTLOOK...Dave Lins, University of Illinois, takes a look at the current economic outlook facing many dairy and cattle producers. Gary Beaumont interviews. (134)

ARS RESEARCH REPORTS...Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service are producing new varieties of grapefruit, and studying listening devices to detect insects inside of food. Will Pemble reports. (135)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1500...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) This week George Holmes talks to the Director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., Marc Cathey, about houseplants. Everything you've ever wanted to know about their care, their longevity, when to take them outside in the summer and when to bring them inside in the fall.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1489...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; 1985 crop wheat loans; Continued financial stress in Illinois; The "killer bees" are coming; South may lose more jobs.

CONSUMER TIME #982...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) A sewage treatment "plant"; Avoid food poisoning; Teens: Footloose with money; The "Mertz" diet; Stepparenting.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, Mar. 10, Crop production report; Tues, Mar. 11, Weekly crop and weather report; Fri, Mar. 14, Livestock slaughter; Milk production and Cattle on feed. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

Most farm broadcasters drive to work, some fly their own planes here and there, and Terri-Rae Elmer (KFBK, Sacramento, CA) takes a boat to work...or at least she did during the floods in California. She reports she and the others at the all-news/talk station worked 70 hours straight, staying at the station, to keep listeners informed ... George Stephens (WDAF, Kansas City, MO) says his doctor has given him the go-ahead to lead a group on a three week trip to China and Japan in April. As many of you know, George had an operation for cancer in his jaw area and has been on chemotherapy since. Incidentally, George also reports this year's trip will only be a one-bus trip. Last year we reported he had filled one bus for the trip to Europe and rapidly filling another. Some curious (in more ways than one) readers of this column raised the question about how a bus could make it to Europe. We don't question how, we just report the facts (poorly stated, possibly, but without too many embellishments) ... Randy Rasmussen is now farm director at KBUR, Bismarck, ND. He was at WNAX, Yankton, SD with Ed Nelson. Matt Westergaard took Randy's place at WNAX ... John Zimmerman reports that Jim Mortwedt has left his staff at the Wisconsin Farm Broadcasting Net in Madison and is now the Director of Communications at the Wisconsin Vocational Technical Institute in Eau Claire, WI ... Visitor in town this week: Jeff Nalley (WBKR, Owensboro, AR). It was Jeff's first trip to the Nation's capitol, so he kept busy between taking care of business and playing tourist ... Bob Zank returned to work at the Ag News Network in Neillsville, WI, after being hospitalized following a car accident. He suffered a broken arm, head lacerations and a cracked pelvis ... Joe Tokheim is the new farm broadcaster at KIWA, Sheldon, IA. He replaces Frank Luepke who was made general manager of the station the first of the year.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio-Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2252

March 6, 1986

APR 1 1986

SIGN-UP DELAYED

The beginning of the sign-up period for 1986 programs for wheat, feed grains, rice and cotton set for March 3 was delayed, because the Commodity Credit Corporation ran out of funds. However, the President is expected to sign a $5 billion emergency appropriation passed by Congress March 5 to fund the programs. Program sign-ups will conclude on April 11, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

THAT 4.3 PCT. REDUCTION

Cash payments to producers for commodity loans, deficiency payments and diversion payments for 1986 crops will be reduced by 4.3 pct. under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This effectively will reduce price and income support levels, although in-kind payments and acreage conservation reserve payments will not be affected.

DEFICIENCY PAYMENT FOR CORN

The deficiency payment for corn is estimated at $1.03 a bushel, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Producers may request 40 pct. of their total anticipated deficiency payment at signup. Three-fourths of the advanced deficiency payments are payable in cash; the other fourth is payable in kind. The rate for the 2.5 pct. paid land diversion for corn producers is set at 73 cents a bushel. Advanced deficiency and diversion PIK payments will be available between May 1 and Sept. 30, 1986.

FARM BILL CUTS NEW-CROP SUPPORTS

The 1985 farm bill is cutting new-crop price supports. On Jan. 13, the 1986 loan rate for corn was set at $1.92 a bushel, the lowest level possible under the new law, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Loan rates for wheat and other feed grains were reduced similarly. Farm prices should fall along with the loan rate reductions. Target prices are frozen by law at their 1985 levels - $3.03 for corn. Thus, potential deficiency payments are up sharply since last year, particularly since large portions are not subject to the $50,000 payment limitation.

EC IMPORT LEVIES

The European Community's levies on grain in the coming year are likel to climb to record highs, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At times, the levies may become so large that importers will have to pay more for levy than for the cost-plus-freight to brin in foreign grain. Since early 1985, EC import levies have been risin largely as a result of declining world prices and the weakening dollar. If world prices parallel the drop in U.S. wheat and corn loa rates for 1986, the EC levy one year from now will have risen further

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A 21.34:

SOYBEANS TO USSR

On March 3, private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 260,000 metric tons of soybeans for delivery to the USSR during the 1985-86 marketing year. Sales of soybeans to the USSR now total 1,411,800 tons. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR this marketing year now total 6,304,800 tons, of which wheat is 152,600 tons and corn is 6,152,200 tons.

U.S. CORN EXPORTS TO JAPAN TO DECLINE?

U.S. corn exports to Japan could decline due to large availabilities of inexpensive, good-quality Argentine and South African corn, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Japanese imports of U.S. corn may slip from the 1984/85 level of 11.4 million tons to 9.6 million in 1985/86.

FARM BILL MAY STIMULATE EXPORTS

The 1985 farm bill's various export promotion mechanisms will help U.S. corn and sorghum sales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The biggest single stimulus will come from the reduced loan rates for coarse grains. High loan rates, along with other factors such as the high-valued dollar, caused U.S. corn sales to fall 17 pct. from 1981/82 to just over 41 million tons in 1985/86. Meantime, world exports fell only 8 pct., as other exporters appeared willing to expand sales at almost any cost. Sales during the summer quarter may suffer considerably as importers delay purchases in anticipation of sharply reduced grain prices. U.S. exports during 1986/87 may rise substantially.

CORN & SORGHUM EXPORT FORECAST

As of mid-February, the 1985/86 U.S. coarse grain export forecast remained unchanged at 49.1 million tons, the lowest level in 10 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prospects for increased corn exports to Brazil were offset by increased competition from large barley supplies in the European Community, large corn supplies in South Africa and Argentina, and increased supplies of EC, Canadian and Australian feed wheat.

7-5/8 PCT. INTEREST RATE

Commodity loans disbursed in March by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 7-5/8 pct. interest rate. The new rate is down from 7-3/4 pct.

FEED GRAIN ACREAGE REDUCTION

The required acreage reduction for feed grain participants is 17.5 pct., plus a paid in-kind land diversion of 2.5 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An "underplanting" provision gives producers deficiency payment protection on 92 pct. of their permitted plantings if they plant at least 50 pct. of their permitted acreage to the program crop. Cross compliance will not be required by farmers participating in the 1986 wheat, feed grain, cotton and rice programs.

U.S. WHEAT EXPORT FORECAST

U.S. wheat export forecast as of mid-February remained unchanged from a month ago, at 25.9 million tons. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it's the lowest level since the 1976/77 marketing year. The accumulated sales and exports through Feb. 20 totaled 20.8 million tons, nearly 40 pct. below last year's level of 33.9 million tons. The bulk of the deficit was due to reduced purchases by the Soviet, China, and Brazil. The current U.S. forecast is supported by the lowering of Argentina's estimated export availabilities.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEED OUTLOOK - I...U.S. feed grain production in 1985 is estimated at 274 million metric tons, up 16 percent from 1984's total. USDA economist David Hull examines the feed grain situation and factors contributing to the current outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (136)

FEED OUTLOOK - II...The 1985 Farm Bill and details of its programs are the most influential factors in the outlook for grain producers. USDA economist David Hull continues his discussion on the feed situation and outlook and how the farm bill will affect it. Vic Powell interviews. (137)

WHEAT OUTLOOK...Fewer acres of wheat will likely be harvested this year, but producers are expected to plant their more productive areas, partially offsetting the acreage cut called for in 1985 farm bill. USDA economist Allen Schienbein describes the current situation and outlook for wheat. Vic Powell interviews. (138)

ELECTRIC CHORE TRACTORS...Research shows that electrically powered vehicles may have a place on the farm and can help farmers reduce machinery costs. Les Christianson, University of Illinois, focuses on the popularity of these vehicles. Gary Beaumont interviews. (139)

ARS RESEARCH REPORTS...Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service have developed a compound treatment that causes fruit trees to prune themselves, and are studying a new bacteria that causes citrus canker - in the hopes of controlling this disease. Will Pemble reports. (140)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1501...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) In most areas springlike weather is here or coming soon. When the weather warms up, most of us start thinking about getting the garden in shape. Brenda Curtis talks with a gardening expert.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1490...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Uncertainty in the livestock sector; Storing grain properly; A program for farmers in trouble; New sheep parasite discovered.

CONSUMER TIME #983...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Plants are for everyone; Watering indoor plants; Early lawn care; Preparing your garden site; Selecting vegetable plants.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Mar. 13, Sugar and sweeteners; Fri, Mar. 14, Milk production, Cattle on feed; Mon, Mar. 17, Agricultural outlook report; Tues, Mar. 18, Tobacco outlook, Crop and weather update; Wed, Mar. 19, Dairy outlook; Thurs, Mar. 20, Coverage of Ag. Day activities, Catfish, World agriculture; Fri, Mar. 21, Hogs and pigs report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

Here's the first sentence in a letter we received from Ray Kremer, former NAFB Senior Sales/Marketing Director, now retired: "Thus far my retirement...has not been too enjoyable." Ray goes on to report he developed acute vascular problems in his lower left leg and foot shortly after Jan. 1. Blood poisoning had developed, and it looked like amputation would be necessary. However, a specialist said to let him do an exploratory operation, and after six hours of doing just that, he found the blockage, corrected it, and Ray is home after a month's recuperating in the hospital. He says he'll know for sure in 5-6 weeks, but he's looking for brighter days ahead. Us too, Ray ... Joyce Cutright (KWTO, Springfield, MO) is leaving the station to become Director of Marketing for the Farm Credit Services of SW Missouri, also in Springfield. She takes up her new duties, March 17 ...Eric Parsons is now in Washington, D.C. and is working with Nelson Robinson in USDA/ASCS Radio and Television. Eric had been the AgriBusiness Director at WKBT-TV, LaCrosse, WI ... Garth Clark also is in Washington, D.C. He left Ag Day in Lafayette, IN, to seek employment in media work here and to be with his fiancee Colleen Kelly, who is the new Head of Information and Publications at University of Maryland. Bruce Braun is the new anchor at Ag Day. Bruce was at KELO-AM-TV, Sioux Falls, SD ... Gary Truitt (Agribusiness Net, Indianapolis, IN) was in town with a group of Indiana Farm Bureau members. He had a chance to interview Acting Sec'y of Agric Frank Naylor, and we had a nice visit, too ...Lynn Ketelsen (Linder Network, Willmar, MN) left for Paris, March 8, to spend a week covering the Paris Agriculture Show ... We have free copies (while the supply lasts) of the "1986 Fact Book of U.S. Agriculture." It's packed with excellent information and statistics about U.S. agriculture. If you want a copy, give us a call or drop us a note.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio-Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2253

APR 29 1986

March 13, 1986

$750 MILLION MORE FOR FARMERS HOME

President Reagan has authorized the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make $750 million in additional funding available immediately through the Farmers Home Administration for farm operating loans. According to Secretary Richard Lyng, "These funds will come from accounts where demand is considerably less than anticipated and should assure satisfactory levels of operating loans for all eligible farm borrowers. This makes a total of almost $4 billion available for operating loans this year through FmHA alone."

WORLD CROP PROD. HIGHLIGHTS

The world production of wheat for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 503.2 million tons, down 200 thousand tons or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 2 pct. from last year's record harvest. World production for 1985/86 for coarse grains is estimated at a record 842.7 million tons, down 1.2 million or less than 1 pct. from last month but up 4 pct. from last year. The world production of oilseeds for 1985/86 is estimated at a record 194.4 million tons, up 200 thousand or less than 1 pct. from last month, and 3 pct. from last year. U.S. production is unchanged at 65.5 million tons, up 11 pct. from last year.

WORLD GRAIN SITUATION & OUTLOOK

The world grain situation continues to be dominated by expectations for lower world grain prices, largely due to the new, reduced U.S. loan rates for wheat, coarse grains and rice, and the outlook for expected 1986 crop supplies. For grain exporting countries this has meant an increased emphasis on quick sales and shipments. For importers it has meant the continued deferment of grain purchases, further hand-to-mouth buying, and in some cases, foregone purchases. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, these activities have contributed to the current weakness in U.S. grain exports.

U.S. TRADE PROSPECTS FOR COARSE GRAIN

The U.S. 1985/86 (Oct.-Sept.) coarse grain export forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture fell more than 3 million tons this month, to 46 million tons. A 2.7 million ton decline in U.S. corn exports was the primary reason, but sorghum exports were also forecast 700,000 tons lower. A lagging pace of coarse grain purchases, a restrictive import policy in Mexico, and record availabilities of Argentine corn, all contributed to the sharply lower corn export prospects. U.S. corn sales as of early March totaled 24.6 million tons, less than 50 pct. of 1984/85 exports.

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Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

SOYBEAN PRICES STRENGTHEN

U.S. farm prices for soybeans have shown some strengthening in recent months, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After hitting a harvest low of $4.85 a bushel, prices climbed to $5.16 in January. Stronger prices are probably a result of the government's loan program. As of Jan. 1, stocks were about 1.8 billion bushels. Of the total, about 545 million bushels were under loan or owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. By Feb. 12, loan and CCC stocks had grown to around 610 million bushels.

DISAPPEARING SOYBEANS

With farm prices for U.S. soybeans between $5.05 and $5.35 for the season, a total disappearance of 1.9 billion bushels is expected this season, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This would leave ending stocks at 500 million bushels, or about 110 million less than the quantity under loan or owned by the CCC as of mid-Feb. To achieve the current forecast for total use, a substantial amount of soybeans must be drawn from loan or CCC stocks, either by redemption of regular loan, the use of soybeans to satisfy PIK entitlements under the wheat and feed grain programs, or a combination of the two.

U.S. WHEAT TRADE PROSPECTS

Sharply lagging wheat sales and shipments, as well as continuing market displacement by wheat exports by competitors resulted in a 700,000 ton decline in the 1985/86 July-June export forecast for the United States, down this month to 26 million tons. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the current wheat export forecast represents the lowest level of U.S. wheat trade in nearly 15 years and reflects lagging exports, down nearly 50 pct. from this time last year. The 1985/86 forecast of 26 million tons is more than 30 pct. below 1984/85 exports and twice the decline in world wheat trade, which has dropped approximately 15 pct.

USSR GRAIN IMPORTS REDUCED

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimate of USSR grain imports for the current marketing year that ends in June was reduced by 1 million tons to 34 million. The coarse grain imports previously estimated at 17 million tons were reduced by 2 million while the estimate of wheat imports was increased by a million tons to 18 million. Miscellaneous grains, rice and pulses account for the balance.

SOVIET WHEAT PURCHASES

The Soviet wheat buying worldwide has exceeded expectations, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Total commitments from all origins are currently estimated at nearly 17 million tons. Canada and the EC have been the largest sellers to date, each with an estimated 5 million tons. Australia's wheat sales to the USSR will be around 3 million tons. As of March 3, USSR grain purchases from the U.S. for delivery in the third year of the Grain Agreement totaled 6.3 million tons, including 153,000 tons of wheat and over 6.1 million tons of corn.

USSR COARSE GRAIN BUYING LAGS

The coarse grain buying activity of the USSR continues to lag, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Purchases as of early March from all origins are estimated at only about 10 million tons. The USSR is close to cleaning up outstanding purchases of U.S. corn, with only 129,000 tons still to be shipped as of March 3. The prospects for record large exportable supplies of Argentine corn, and the recent price weakness in the major world coarse grain markets, may be encouraging the Soviet to at least temporarily delay further coarse grain purchases. Another factor may be USSR's import of feed wheat from the EC and Canada.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

MEDICATED FEED PROGRAM... Dr. Gerald Guest, Food and Drug Administration, focuses on new procedures under the "Second Generation Medicated Feed Program," a program designed to regulate drugs in animal feed. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (141)

1986 RICE PROGRAM...USDA economist Janet Livezey describes the current provisions for the 1986 rice program and what farmers need to do to be eligible for this program. Vic Powell interviews. (142)

CONSERVATION TILLAGE...USDA economist Richard Magleby comments on the reasons behind the surge in the use of conservation tillage practices in the U.S. and whether or not this trend will continue in the future. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (143)

ARS RESEARCH REPORTS... Scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service are developing new crop breeding techniques that produce early maturing nectarines, and produce faster growing varieties of crops. Will Pemble reports. (144)

HANDLING STRESS IN LIVESTOCK... Temple Grandin, University of Illinois, describes how reducing handling stress will improve weight gain, reproductive performance and disease resistance. Gary Beaumont interviews. (145)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event
United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1502...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Americans are drinking more soft drinks and less milk and coffee. George Holmes discusses this shift in the drinking habits of Americans with Agriculture Department economist Karen Bunch.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1491...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Farm bill changes; 1986 commodity programs; Commodity certificates; World grain situation; U.S. grain outlook.

CONSUMER TIME #984...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Basic gardening principles; Gone are the bare spots; Prevent forest fires--sometimes; Household danger zones; Lighting your indoor plants.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE... Mon, Mar. 17, Agricultural outlook; Tues, Mar. 18, Tobacco, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, Mar. 19, Dairy; Thurs, Mar. 20, Catfish, World Agriculture; Fri, Mar. 21, Vegetables, Hogs and pigs, Livestock slaughter. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

News clippings seemed the order of the week. We received two from W. Judd Wyatt, who is now retired after 35 years of directing advertising for MFA Insurance and editing an almanac and touting the wisdom of a black cat. It was only natural that one of the clips showed Judd standing before some of his Missouri Tiger booster awards. The other clip was Don Muhm's column from the Des Moines Register, and it was all about Keith Kirkpatrick (WHO, Des Moines, IA) including a pic of Keith conducting an interview. Muhm's article centered around the fact that Keith celebrated his 35th anniversary with WHO recently and more. We add our congratulations! ... Speaking of 35 years, we received a report from Rich Hawkins and crew that their station KRVN, Lexington, NE, celebrates 35 years of service to farmers and ranchers in Nebraska ... Nice letter from Layne Beaty (USDA Radio-TV Chief, Retired) who, with wife Virginia has been spending the past many weeks in California. Layne reported they were scheduled to leave for home in mid-March, and he had been keeping busy visiting friends who stopped by and tape recording interviews with old broadcasters for the Broadcast Pioneers Library Oral History Project in Washington, D.C. ... Our congratulations to Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, KS). He received a Distinguished Service award from the Girard Chapter of FFA. He also reports he's going to China in May with the Kansas Board of Agriculture. More on that later ... Oscar Day (Radio-TV, Univ of Arizona) will be leaving the University the end of June. He's interested in farm broadcasting work. If you'd like to talk to him, his office number is 602-621-3822. His home number is 602-886-1720 ... Holly Downing will be graduating in ag communications from Ohio State Univ this June and will be available for a farm broadcaster position. Her number at college is 614-899-1322 ... Jerry Reed reports he's changed the name of his network to the Northeast Farm Report. It's headquartered in Utica, NY.

Jim Johnson

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

APR 2 2 1986
U. S. GOVT. PUBS.

Letter No. 2254 March 20, 1986

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports the planting intentions of 45,000 growers, as of March 7. Farmers intent to plant 78.1 million acres of corn, down 6 pct. from last year and 3 pct. from 1984. The prospective soybean plantings are at 62 million acres, the smallest planted acreage since 1977 and down 2 pct. from 1985. Growers intend to plant 15.9 million acres of sorghum, down 13 pct. from 1985. Producers intend to plant 12.9 million acres of barley in 1986, down 2 pct. from last year. Durum wheat acreage is expected to be down 9 pct. from 1985 to 2.92 million acres. Other spring wheat prospective plantings, at 14.2 million acres, are 3 pct. lower than last year.

JORDAN ELIGIBLE FOR EXPORT ENHANCEMENT

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced a wheat offer to Jordan, that will be the nineteenth initiative under the USDA's Export Enhancement Program. Sales will be made at competitive world prices. This program will give U.S. exporters the opportunity to sell up to 75,000 metric tons of wheat. The sales will be subsidized with wheat from the Commodity Credit Corporation's inventory.

FOOD PRICE INCREASES TO BE SMALL

The Consumer Price Index for food in 1986 is forecast to rise 2 to 4 pct. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the small size of the increase stems from large supplies of many farm foods and low general inflation. The new farm bill is expected to lower market prices for wheat, corn and rice and dampen price gains for products made from them.

MORE U.S. SOYBEANS TO USSR

The USSR increased its purchases of U.S. soybeans in Feb./Mar., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total purchases to date are a record 1.4 million tons. Total Soviet imports of soybeans in 1985/86 have been increased to 2 million tons, bringing Soviet soybean meal consumption to 2.3 million tons--up sharply from last year's low level.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN

Cattle and calves on feed Mar. 1, 1986, for the slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 7.26 million head, down 8 pct. from a year ago and 3 pct. below March 1, 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Marketings of fed cattle during Feb. totaled 1.47 million, a decrease of 5 pct. from last year and 9 pct. below Feb. 1984.

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A 21.34:

AUSTRALIA'S WHEAT SUPPORT

The Australian Wheat Board has set the 1985 guaranteed minimum price for Standard White wheat at 149.87 Australian dollars per ton (105 U.S. dollars). Given currently declining wheat prices and the 27 pct. decrease in the 1986 U.S. wheat loan rate, the Australian minimum price is higher than had been expected, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In U.S. dollar terms, the new price represents about a 3-pct. decline from last year's level of U.S. $108 per ton.

U.S. AG TRADE UPDATE

Agricultural exports of the U.S. during Oct.-Jan. 1986 totaled $10.3 billion, down $2.8 billion, or 21 pct., from Oct.-Jan. 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume so far in fiscal 1986 totaled 44.9 million tons, down 17 pct. from the 54.2 million exported during the same period of fiscal 1985. Agricultural exports during Jan. 1986, totaled $2.54 billion, down $593 million, or 19 pct., from Jan. 1985, and 4 pct. below the $2.64 billion exported in Dec. 1985. Export volume for Jan. totaled 11.2 million tons, down nearly 15 pct. from the 13.2 million of Jan. 1985. The sharpest year-to-year value declines in exports so far in fiscal 1986 have been in wheat, corn, cotton and grain sorghum.

WORLD OILSEED FORECAST

The March forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of the 1985/86 world oilseed production is placed at 194.4 million metric tons, virtually unchanged from last month. A 6 pct. increase in palm kernel production and smaller increases in peanut and cottonseed production overroad a 3 pct. decline in flaxseed production. Copra, rapeseed, soybean and sunflowerseed production registered little or no change.

EXTENSION SERVICE FUNDS TO HELP FARMERS

Many financially distressed farmers and ranchers can get a helping hand from their local Cooperative Extension offices in fiscal 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is due in part to a $1.4 million program funded by special congressional appropriations. The projects focus on providing intensive farm financial management assistance and associated stress counseling. Extension awarded funds to projects in 18 States: Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee. Multi-state projects in Minnesota and Oregon were also funded.

DAIRY OUTLOOK

1986 may be the turning point for dairy, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Milk production and commercial use are expected to post large increases and the surplus will be heavy, a situation apparently similar to last year. But annual totals might mask forces set in motion during the year that could result in 1986 being a turning point. Effective returns to dairying will be squeezed further, and the buyout program will start to reduce milk production. This might enable commercial use to start winning the race with production. Retail dairy prices are expected to decline slightly, implying a larger drop in real prices than in most recent years.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

OILSEED OUTLOOK...USDA economist Roger Hoskin focuses on the current soybean situation and outlook, including domestic meal demand, exports and the outlook for acreage response to the 1985 farm bill. Vic Powell interviews. (146)

SUGARS AND SWEETENERS OUTLOOK...The impact of the beverage industry's switch from sugar to high fructose corn syrup is still being felt. Sugar deliveries last year were down five percent, continuing the decline that began in 1977. USDA economist David Harvey examines the current sugars and sweeteners outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (147)

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Food price increases are expected to be small again, as the Consumer Price Index for food in 1986 is forecast to rise two to four percent. USDA economist Herb Moses talks about these and other factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (148)

CONTROLLING PINK BOLLWORM...USDA research scientist Tom Henneberry talks about research work currently being conducted to study the use of insects to control pink bollworms. Vic Powell interviews. (149)

ENHANCING CORN QUALITY...Marvin Steinberg, University of Illinois, focuses on efforts to maintain and enhance corn quality in the export process, including controlling mold growth. Gary Beaumont interviews. (150)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event
United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1503...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition of Agriculture USA, Gary Crawford talks to Forest Service experts about some of the latest methods in preventing forest fires. One of those includes starting controlled forest fires.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1492...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; The Homestead Program; The grasshoppers are coming; Fast mastitis treatment; Ag outlook.

CONSUMER TIME #985...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Growing grass in the shade; More sodas less milk; Seeds or transplants; Monitoring fat in the diet; Saving energy in the kitchen.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Apr. 10, Crop production report; Tues, Apr. 15, Weekly weather and crop summary; Wed, Apr. 16, Milk production report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

First a bit of housekeeping. Florence Kelly (USDA Radio-TV secretary) made some changes to this newsletter's mailing list, then learned later the computer was sick and hadn't accepted any of the changes. Unfortunately, Florence no longer has the information. So, if you requested a change recently, please send it in again ... Tony Purcell (Mid Amer Ag Net, Wichita, KS) reports Mike Dain is now program director for Larry Steckline's stations and his place on the ag net has been filled by Ted Werbine. Ted also is involved in reporting news and sports for the new Mid America News Network ... Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka, KS) reports Rich Hull (same net) is on a 2 month Jefferson Fellowship Program at the East-West Center in Hawaii. He spends 3 weeks in Hawaii, then a month in Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and China then returns to Hawaii. Incidentally, congratulations are in order for Mark. He's a new poppa, first time, too. Her name is Sarah, and she was born premature on Feb. 15. Mother and daughter are both doing fine ... We learn that past NAFB president Johnnie Hood (WPTF/Southern Farm Net, Raleigh, NC) recently received the Meritorious Service Award from the North Carolina Soybean Growers Assn. Our congratulations! ... Same goes to Mike Wiles (KTTS, Springfield, MO). He and KTTS recently received the Missouri Pork Producers Assn 1985 Media Award. Mike also was named an honorary member of the Missouri Young Farmers and Young Farm Wives Assn ... Call from Ron Arp (KWHT, Pendleton, OR) brought some fascinating information. Pendleton is known as the Roundup City for its famous Pendleton Roundup. However, Ron says the most recent "event" was the "Great American Hamster Race!." Two auto dealers turned hamster exercise wheels into cars, put hamsters inside the wheels and had a race. Ron did "color" for the play-by-play announcer. Wow! ...

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
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2255

Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2255

APR 21 1986

March 27, 1986

SIGNUP PERIOD EXTENDED

Farmers will have until April 25 to signup for the 1986 wheat, feed grain, cotton and rice programs. Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng said the extension from the original April 11 deadline was made to give producers more time to consider recent program changes.

HEPTACHLOR UPDATE

Is heptachlor a problem in meat, especially in the three states where the pesticide was found in dairy products? Yes and No. Yes, because a U.S. Department of Agriculture initial testing program found residue in 6 samples out of 196 tested. No, because the 6 samples were all from animals from within the three states and none from outside Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. "There appears to be no widespread problem with heptachlor contamination of the meat supply," is the way Donald Houston, head of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service put it.

DAIRY FARMERS WITH HEPTACHLOR

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng said the USDA's credit programs will move quickly to help dairy farmers facing substantial losses due to heptachlor-contaminated grain. The Farmers Home Admin. will make loans to its dairy-farm borrowers in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri so operators can buy feed and, in some cases, replace dairy cattle that must be sold or destroyed. Dairy farmers seeking financial help should contact their county Farmers Home Admin. office.

5 PCT. PAID DIVERSION FOR WINTER WHEAT

Winter wheat producers will be offered an optional 5 pct. paid land diversion for their 1986 crop, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. Under this new program provision, winter wheat producers will have the option of diverting from production 5 pct. of their wheat acreage base. Producers will still be allowed the current option of diverting 10 pct. of their base. The payment rate for diverted acreage will remain $2.00 per bushel.

WIND EROSION DOWN

Wind erosion in the Great Plains during the four-month period ending Feb. 28 was nearly 20 pct. lower than in the comparable period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Reports from the 10-state area showed slightly more than 3.3 million wind-damaged acres from Nov. 1, 1985, through Feb. 28, 1986. The total was a little under the 4 million wind-damaged acres in the comparable period in 1984-85.

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HOGS & PIGS INVENTORY DOWN

Inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1986, in the 10 States conducting quarterly hog surveys is estimated at 38.6 million head, 3 pct. below last March 1, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is 4 pct. below march 1, 1984, and the lowest Mar. 1 inventory since 1976. (For more statistical information, call 202-447-6880.)

ACID RAIN COOPERATION

The United States and the Federal Republic of Germany on Mar. 21 agreed to continue their scientific and technical cooperation on acid rain and other topics related to agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. these cooperative efforts foster better understanding of problems common to both the U.S. and West Germany, and save both nations research time and funds.

MORE FARM PROGRAM DETAILS: PROGRAM PAYMENTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture clarified some details of the 1986 upland cotton, feed grain, rice and wheat programs. The Food Security Improvements Act of 1986 authorizes additional compensation to be made available in the form of commodity certificates to producers whose 1986 farm program payment yield for a crop is reduced more than 3 pct. below the 1985 program payment yield. When calculating program payments, the same yield will be used for both deficiency and diversion payments when appropriate.

BREATHALYZER TEST FOR PEANUTS

A new test developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture can declare a peanut containing too much alcohol as intoxicated. And it's not the peanut's fault. If peanuts are exposed to severe cold or heat before they're cured, they produce alcohol and related compounds that give them a bitter flavor. The new test uses a special sensor and meter to measure how drunk the peanuts are. The bad-tasting ones are then separated from the sober ones. The peanuts with bad taste can still be used to make oil and other products.

MORE PINK BOLLWORM REGULATION

Parts of eight Arkansas and Mississippi counties were placed under Federal regulation to control pink bollworm, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Certain items are not permitted to move interstate from these areas unless treated, if necessary, and certified free of pink bollworm. Items include cottonseed, cotton lint and linters, used cotton bagging and used harvesting equipment. These actions published in the Federal Register on Mar. 25. Send written comments until May 27 to Thomas Gessel, USDA, APHIS, Room 728, Federal Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

NEW RULES FOR PIGGY'S FOOD PREPARATION SITE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed to cancel licenses of inactive facilities for treating garbage fed to swine so inspection efforts can be concentrated on active facilities. The proposal would require cancellation of licenses issued to operators of swine garbage-treatment facilities that have not treated garbage for 3 consecutive months. This proposal was published in the march 20 Federal Register. Comments may be submitted until May 19 to Thomas O. Gessel, APHIS, USDA, Room 728, Fed. Bldg., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER OUTLOOK...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen talks about the current weather outlook and how it's affecting the planting season as well as farmers' options about how to use their croplands this year. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (151)

DAIRY OUTLOOK...Both milk production and commercial use are expected to have large increases this year, but there are forces in motion that could mark 1986 as a turning point in the dairy industry. USDA economist Clifford Carman focuses on the current situation and outlook for dairy. Vic Powell interviews. (152)

TOBACCO OUTLOOK...Major changes are underway for tobacco producers that relate to acreage as well as the current deficit reduction bill. USDA economist Verner Grise examines these changes and how they will affect the tobacco industry. Vic Powell interviews. (153)

POLYETHYLENE WRAPPING FOR FRUITS...USDA scientist Phil Hale talks about research being conducted in Orlando, Florida, to protect and preserve the quality of fruits and vegetables using a film or polyethylene wrapping. Lynn Wyvill interviews. (154)

FARM CRISIS - MANAGING FOR TOMORROW...Larry Bitney, extension economist with the University of Nebraska, offers an overview of the farm crisis situation in Nebraska and programs underway in this area to help farm families cope with financial difficulties. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (155)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1504...This week Brenda Curtis gives us a chance to get to know the new Secretary of Agriculture as she presents "A Conversation with Richard Lyng."

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1493...USDA news highlights; Farm bill improvements; A visit with the new Ag. Secretary; Future insecticides; Debt struggle continues.

CONSUMER TIME #986...Electrocutions in the home; Drugs vs. food; Test tube plants; Trickle irrigation for your garden; Lemon laws.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...(This listing includes only scheduled reports, but our newsline carries new items every weekday regardless of the lack of scheduled USDA reports.) Tues, Apr. 8, Crop and weather update; Wed, Apr. 9, Land values summary; Thurs, Apr. 10, U.S. crop production, World ag. supply and demand, USSR grain outlook; Fri, Apr. 11, World crop production, World cotton situation, World oilseed situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

Marla Behrends (WKAN, Kankakee, IL) is in the Middle East and will be for six weeks. She was selected as a member of an all-female Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange Team. She will be in Egypt and Bahrain and will stop by Brussels on her way home ... Another "Fantastic" offer. We have extra copies of the press kit provided to media during the Ag Day celebration at USDA. It's crammed with good information about agriculture, i.e. info sheets on how many jobs ag makes, one farmer feeds 116 people, how much food one person eats, eating out and eating in, what farm exports mean, one pound of wheat and 13 million jobs, and ag is more than food. If you want one of the kits, let us know ... Wey Simpson (KXLY, Spokane, WN) recently showed what years of experience can do. He anchored two half-hour daily newscasts as part of the media coverage efforts at the National Wheat Growers meeting in Reno. He taped interviews and gave live reports in each program and dazzled co-workers with his unflappability ... We missed getting this next item in last week's letter, so it's a little out of date. It's from Dan Modlin (Rural Radio Net, New Palestine, IN) who reports he got back from the airport, March 10, to find a tornado had missed his house by only about 150 yards. "Just three houses away looked like a bomb had gone off," was Dan's observation. And he verified that tornadoes can do quirkie things. His sons left a plastic beach ball in the backyard and it stayed there, despite all kinds of things flying around ... Remember Scott Erickson? He worked in our TV section a couple summers back. He writes to report he will be spending six months in Costa Rica helping the University there with its radio farm programs. Then he returns in December and will be looking for a job. We have his resume, if you're interested ... Latest newsletter from Bob Bosold (WAXX, Eau Claire, WI) reports he's on his annual Farm Tour to Hawaii. Three years in a row makes it an annual affair, doesn't it? Tough duty!

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2256 April 3, 1986

1985-CROP CORN, SORGHUM DEFICIENCY

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APR 2 5 1986

U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY 325

An estimated $2.6 billion in deficiency payments will be paid to eligible corn and sorghum producers for their 1985 crops, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. Of the deficiency payments earned, $1 billion, 150 million has already been received by corn producers and $93 million by sorghum producers who requested advance payments. Deficiency payments of 23½ cents per bushel for corn and 23 cents for sorghum were paid to those producers. In addition, corn producers will receive about one and a quarter billion dollars and sorghum producers around $130 million. Most farmers should receive the remainder by mid-April.

U.S. WHEAT BECOMING COMPETITIVE

Recent sales of new-crop U.S. wheat may indicate that U.S. prices are becoming more competitive, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Algeria, one of the world's leading durum wheat importers, has purchased new-crop U.S. durum for $136-139 a ton f.o.b., nearly 20 pct. below U.S. durum prices a year ago. Peru purchased U.S. wheat for June/July delivery at $103-106 a ton, f.o.b. The purchase compared favorably to a recent Argentine sale priced between $102-104.

WHEAT SHIPMENTS

In the 4-week period ending Mar. 20, wheat shipments totaled 1.8 million tons, up 6 pct. from last month, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. New sales for the month of 1.4 million tons were down nearly 200,000 tons or 12 pct. from last month's sales. Leading destinations included South Korea, Algeria, Turkey, Pakistan, Morocco, and Egypt. Major wheat sales were made to Japan, Algeria and Egypt.

EC & WHEAT

In an attempt to displace potential U.S. new-crop wheat exports under the Export Enhancement Program, the European Commission has moved to give the Commission the ability to continue to undercut U.S. wheat prices by granting higher export subsidies for sales made specifically to Tunisia and Algeria. However, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, despite generally higher EC export subsidies, sluggish global wheat import demand and poor quality EC wheat supplies may lead to a decline in the EC's 1985/86 wheat exports from last year's record of 17.5 million tons.

CCC INT. RATE 7-1/4 PCT.

Commodity loans disbursed in April by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 7¼ pct. interest rate.

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A21.34:

CANADA WHEAT TO IRAQ

Canada and Iraq have signed a new wheat agreement involving longer-term credit, designed to make Canadian bread-quality wheat more attractive in the Iraqi wheat market. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the new 3-year agreement calls for 500,000 tons of wheat trade per year with 3-year credit terms. Australia also has a wheat agreement with Iraq that requires at least 6 million tons of wheat trade during the next 5 years beginning in 1986. The U.S. supplies about a third of Iraq's average annual wheat import requirements of 2.5 million tons.

LYNG TO FRANCE

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng will travel to France in mid-April to discuss agricultural trade and related issues with his counterparts from the European Community. On April 18 Lyng will attend a trade policy seminar for U.S. agricultural attaches stationed in Western European countries.

CHINA'S SOYBEAN IMPORTS

No growth is expected in China's soybean imports in 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. China's soybean imports are forecast at 200,000 tons in 1986/87, the same level as 1985/86. China's recent purchases of U.S. soybeans were slated for food use and apparently do not represent the beginning of imports aimed at meeting Chinese rising feed demand. Chinese oilseed exports are expected to continue to displace U.S. sales in Southeast Asia in 1986/87. China can export food-grade soybeans, especially to Japan, at sufficiently high prices that still provide a profit when it imports soybeans from the U.S. for domestic food.

RED MEAT BUY-OUT

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that the USDA will begin purchasing 400 million pounds of red meat to help offset the impact of increased slaughter of dairy cattle under USDA's whole-herd dairy buy-out program. The new purchases will be in addition to quantities of red meat normally purchased for distribution to the school lunch program and other domestic feeding programs. Of the 400 million to be purchased, 200 million pounds will be donated to domestic nonprofit charitable institutions for the needy, to nutrition programs for the elderly, to nonprofit summer camps for children and other child nutrition programs including school lunch. The remaining 200 million pounds will be exported.

COWS & BEEF SUPPLY

Additional slaughter resulting from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's dairy whole-herd buy-out program will add only slightly to second-quarter beef supplies. Analysis by USDA's Economic Research Service points to 250-275 million pounds, or 3-4 pct. more beef in the second quarter as a result of the dairy program. In the third quarter, beef supplies are expected to increase about 3 pct. or 160-190 million pounds. Sharpest slaughter increases will occur for cow beef, primarily for April through Aug.

DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM

As of March 28, the U.S. Department of Agriculture had tentatively accepted 13,988 bids to participate in the dairy production termination program. According to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng, 39,534 dairy farmers submitted bids. The farmers submitting bids marketed about 33 billion pounds of milk in 1985, about 23½ pct. of the U.S. total. The cost of the dairy termination program will total $1 billion, 827 million, spread out over the 5 years of the program.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

WHOLE HERD BUY-OUT PROGRAM...The U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin purchasing 400 million pounds of red meat to help offset the impact of increased supply caused by the whole-herd dairy buy-out program. Sec'y of Agri. Richard Lyng discusses this program as well as the Conservation Reserve program and what they will mean for farmers. Vic Powell interviews. (156)

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE...The Southern pine beetle is approaching Virginia and may pose a threat to woodlands in this State this summer. Kenneth Knauer with USDA's Forest Service describes this beetle and type of damage it causes. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (157)

CURRENT TRANSPORTATION ISSUES...The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold an agricultural transportation conference in May to focus on expanding world markets for U.S. agricultural products. Martin Fitzpatrick, administrator of USDA's Office of Transportation, comments on this conference and issues to be discussed there. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (158)

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Food assistance declined sharply last year, and continues its decline this year, largely because domestic cereal supplies in many countries have returned to normal. USDA economist Cecil Davision takes a look at these and other factors contributing to the current world agricultural outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (159)

RED MEAT AND POULTRY INDUSTRY CHANGES...Major changes caused by a variety of factors are underway in the red meat and poultry industries. USDA economist John Nalivka examines these changes and what they will mean for producers. Vic Powell interviews. (160)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1505...Lamb fights back. For at least 20 years the U.S. sheep industry has been declining. Now herds are the smallest ever and more producers are deciding to give up the business for more profitable activities both in and out of agriculture. Gary Crawford talks with several sheep industry people about the planned comeback of lamb.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1494...USDA news highlights; Results of conservation reserve program; Dairy termination program; Sheep comeback; Facing loss of a farm.

CONSUMER TIME #987...Indian River citrus; Living with ozone; Herbal tea caution; Drunk peanuts; Frozen vs. home prepared meals.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Apr. 8, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, Apr. 9, Vegetables, Land values; Thurs, Apr. 10, Crop production, World agriculture supply demand; Mon, Apr. 14, North Africa; Tues, Apr. 15, Weekly crop and weather, Cotton and wool. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

A good "Goodbye Party" for John Ochs, former press secretary for former Sec'y of Agric John Block, was held, March 25. Two MC's presided, beginning with Sec'y Richard Lyng and concluding with former Sec'y Block. Dave Lane, formerly deputy to Ochs is serving as the acting press secretary ... Stu Ellis (WSOY, Decatur, IL) reports he may be going to the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland around the first of June. More later ... Davonna Oakarson (Martin Agency, Richmond, VA) reports that she and Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Mktng Dir, Herndon, VA) co-MC'ed the NAMA awards and election banquet held recently for the Carolina/Virginia chapter ... Nice note from Murray Miles (Tennessee Farm Bureau, Columbia, TN). He's director of info there and reported they're in their 31st year of producing their weekly radio tape show "Town and Country," their 22nd year of producing the weekly TV show "Farm Digest," and their 12th year of producing "Accent Agriculture," a daily 5-minute show over the Tennessee Radio Net ... Just talked to Rich Hawkins (KRVN, Lexington, NE). He said the station carried the 2-hour public meeting Sec'y Lyng participated in Wednesday night, April 2. Congresswoman Virginia Smith MC'ed the affair and over 40 people testified. Rich also talked about the weather. He said last weekend the temperature hit 90, and this morning (April 3) they were looking at the possibility of a blizzard. Interesting! ... John Winfield (Mississippi Ag News Net, Jackson, MS) says he will be providing reports on a regular basis to the Louisiana Radio Net, in addition to his own network daily schedule ... Forrest Bradley, editor, MidAm Reporter, profiled another farm broadcaster, this time in the February issue of his magazine. The farm broadcaster is Roy Lee (KGRC, Hannibal, MO). Roy has been in broadcasting for almost 25 years, and the last 15 in farm broadcasting in Kansas and Missouri.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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2257

Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2257 April 10, 1986

APR 25 1986

AG EXPORTS DOWN $3.2 BILLION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that during Oct. 1985, to Feb. 1986, U.S. agricultural exports totaled $12.8 billion, down $3.2 billion, or 20 pct., from the same period a year earlier. The export volume during the first five months of fiscal 1986 totaled 55.1 million tons, off approximately 16 pct. from the 65.8 million tons exported during the first five months of fiscal 1985. Experiencing the sharpest declines thus far are wheat, corn, rice, grain sorghum, cotton, soybean oil and sunflowerseed.

U.S. AG IMPORTS UP 6 PCT.

U.S. agricultural imports during Oct.-Feb. 1986 reached $8 billion, 600 million up about 6 pct. from the $8 billion, 200 million imported during the same period of fiscal 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The imports included products such as wheat and wheat products, barley and malt and other coarse grains, coconut oil, vegetable oils, cigarette leaf, cigar leaf, feathers and down, and cotton, linters and silk.

DOWNTURN IN LAND VALUES

The values of U.S. farmland declined again last year, continuing the downward trend that began in 1981, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of Feb. 1, U.S. farmland averaged $596 an acre, down from $679 last year and a peak of $823 in the early 1980's. Values rose substantially in New England and New Jersey, while Delaware, New York, Virginia and Tennessee recorded smaller gains. Values fell in all other states, with 25 states incurring declines of 10 pct. or more. Values fell by more than half since 1981 in Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa.

CREDIT TO MEXICO FOR LIVESTOCK

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng authorized $50 million in additional credit guarantees to U.S. exporters so Mexico can purchase U.S. breeding livestock under the Commodity Credit Corporation Credit Guarantee program in fiscal 1986. Lyng also announced an offer of dairy cattle to Indonesia under the USDA's Export Enhancement Program. Lyng said, "These two actions help USDA intensively pursue its red-meat purchasing policy to offset the market impact of increased slaughter of cattle under the dairy whole-herd buyout program."

SYRIA ELIGIBLE FOR ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that an offer for wheat to Syria is the latest initiative under the USDA's Export Enhancement. Lyng said the initiative will give U.S. exporters the opportunity to sell up to 700,000 tons of wheat. (For more information, call William Randolph, 202-382-9254 or Larry McElvain, 202-447-6225.)

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A 21.34:

HALF A TRILLION IN FOOD MARKETING

Sales in the U.S. food marketing system reached an estimated half a trillion dollars in 1985, a 3.5-pct. real increase in sales above 1984, compared with the 2.2-pct. real increase in gross national product, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The food marketing system comprised over 1 million firms in 1985 in food manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, and service. Because the food marketing system benefits from low-inflation economy, which allows costs to be held down, 1985 was a stable year as farm prices fell and wages and marketing costs increased moderately. (For more information, call Tony Gallo, 202-786-1866.)

AG EXPORTS DURING FEB.

Agricultural exports during Feb. 1986 totaled $2 billion, 450 million, down $479 million, or 16 pct. from Feb. 1985, and 4 pct. below the $2 billion, 540 million exported during the previous month, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume for Feb. 1986 totaled just over 10 million tons, down roughly 13 pct. from the 11.6 million tons exported during Feb. 1985, and 1.1 million tons below the previous month.

35 YEARS OF FARM VALUES

The land and buildings of the average U.S. farm were worth about $13,700 in 1950, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The average value per acre was $65. Both figures climbed steadily until reaching peak values of $352,000 per farm and $823 per acre in 1982. Farm real estate debt increased from $5 billion, 600 million to more than $111 billion between 1950 and 1984. In 1950, farmers owed only 7 pct. of the value of their real estate to creditors. By 1984, the national average was 14 pct., and it was higher in some states. In Iowa, for example, the debt's share of farm real estate values climbed from 7.7 pct. in 1950 to 11.2 pct. in 1981, and 17.7 pct. in 1984.

SPEEDING UP LOAN MAKING

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration is hiring more than 1,000 temporary employees in 42 states to help ;process farm loan applications. The additional personnel is being assigned to those FmHA offices where the work load is greatest. The employees include both loan specialists and clerical personnel. According to FmHA administrator Vance Clark, "We need to be sure that needed farm credit--whether in the form of direct loans or FmHA-guaranteed commercial loans--reaches farmers in time for the planting season."

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER IN NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands has been added to the list of countries infected with African swine fever. This restricts the importation of pork and pork products from that country to the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is in addition to import restrictions already in place on pork products from The Netherlands because of foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera and swine vesticular disease. Other countries on the African swine fever list include all nations on the African continent, Brazil, Belgium, Cuba, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain.

POULTRY WITH BRITISH ACCENTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed adding Great Britain to the list of countries eligible to export poultry products to the United States. The inspection system in Britain has met all the required standards of U.S. inspection. (Send comments until June 9 to FSIS, USDA, Room 3803 So., Washington, D.C. 20250. Or call Dr. Wm. Havlick, 202-447-2644.)

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS...Recent figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that bovine tuberculosis is reappearing in several states around the country. Dr. Ralph Hosker with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Serv. talks about what cattle and dairy producers can do to prevent further spread. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (161)

CHINA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY - I...China is undertaking an effort to improve the variety and quantity of meat, milk and eggs in the nation's diet. USDA economist Francis Tuan examines China's modernization of its livestock sector and what this will mean for the U.S. Vic Powell interviews. (162)

CHINA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY - II...USDA economist Francis Tuan continues his discussion on China's livestock improvement program and how this program will affect U.S. exports to this country. Vic Powell interviews. (163)

LESQUERELLA...USDA research scientist Anson Thompson talks about research work being conducted to study a plant, Lesquerella, that produces a seed crop while growing in very dry areas. Vic Powell interviews. (164)

GROUND WATER...USDA research scientist Robert Bowman describes research work in Arizona to study the recharge rate of ground water. Vic Powell interviews. (165)

Food & Fitness
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United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1506...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) In recent years a silent trend has been taking place in American agriculture, the rise of the small farm. On this edition of Agriculture USA, George Holmes talks about the rise with the Director of Small Farm Research at the USDA, Budd Kerr.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1495...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Soviet ag. changes; More on 1986 acreage reduction programs; Branding and dairy cows; Vaccine issue.

CONSUMER TIME #988...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Oats are good for you; Teen spending; Heart disease and gene defect; Mail order food; Frozen dinners make a comeback.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, Apr. 21, Catfish report, East Asia and Oceania outlook report; Tues, Apr. 22, Weekly weather and crop outlook; Fri, Apr. 26, Vegetables, livestock slaughter report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

"Farm 43" is the name of a special project Bruce Lease and his station KWOA in Worthington, Minn. conducted. In a nutshell the "Farm 43" gave away all the input items needed to farm 43 acres. Bruce says an estimated 10,000 entries were received. No info on the winner, but the drawing was held April 5 ... Note the use of "Minn" for Minnesota instead of "MN." This comes as a result of a letter from Bob Cochrum (Texas State Net, Dallas, Tex). He wrote "...to enlist you (me) in my one-man and thus far not-too-successful campaign to get newsletter editors to use standard newspaper abbreviations for states. You see we goofed in designating Washington as WN instead of the proper WA, and this was the straw that broke Bob's back (more or less). So, until we get an overwhelming ground swell of opinions against (or until we goof up and forget) we will use the more traditional state abbreviations from now on ... Speaking of newsletters, the latest we've received is called "The Capcom." It's the monthly newsletter from Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc., and it contains some rather prominent mentions of Ray Wilkinson and Ken Tanner (WRAL/Tobacco Nets, Raleigh, NC) ... Big congratulations are in order for John Stearns and his AG USA weekly television program. It's celebrating its 25th anniversary. And John reports the program just received its 401st award...from the Freedoms Foundation for Excellence in Electronic Communication. Nice going, John ... Our Gary Crawford received an interesting letter the other day from a Sara Webb, Dallas, Tex. She wanted more information on a story Gary had done about an all-wood office building. And she went on to say she appreciates he reports because of the "...sound effects and funny things that get me going in the morning. And at that time of morning, I need all the help I can get." Amen to that ... Karr Ingham is no longer with KGNC, Amarillo, Tex. He switched to television...same city.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

MAY 1 3 1986
U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY

Letter No. 2258 April 17, 1986

USSR GRAIN IMPORT EST.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimate of USSR grain imports for the 1985/86 marketing year has been reduced by 3 million tons to 31 million, the lowest level of imports since 1979/80. The estimate of wheat imports was cut by 1 million...of coarse grains by 2 million tons. The new wheat import estimate of 17 million tons is 11 million tons less than in 1984/85. Coarse grain imports, estimated at only 13 million tons, are less than half of last year's record level.

USSR'S NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN

The agricultural production goals for the USSR's 12th Five Year Plan from 1986 to 1990 are quite ambitious compared to performance in recent years. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, gross agricultural output is to increase up to 3 pct. a year, compared with just over 1 pct. a year during 1981-85. Grain production in particular is slated for a major increase and is targeted to reach 250-255 million tons by 1990 compared with an estimated 178 million tons during 1981-85.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the April world wheat production for 1985/86 is estimated at nearly 504 million tons, up 700,000 tons or less than 1 pct. from last month, and down 2 pct. from the 1984/85 record harvest. The wheat production in East Europe is estimated at 38 million tons, up 900,000 tons or 2 pct. from last month, but down 9 pct. from 1984. The European Community production is estimated at nearly 66 million tons, down 200,000 tons or less than 1 pct. from last month but down 14 pct. from 1984.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORLD COARSE GRAINS PRODUCTION

The world production for 1985/86 of coarse grains is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record of nearly 844 million tons, up 1 million, 300 thousand tons, or less than 1 pct. from last month and up 4 pct. from the previous crop. Coarse grains production in East Europe is estimated at just over 69 million tons, up 2 million, 100 thousand tons, or 3 pct. from last month, but down 5 pct. from the record 1984 crop.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT EXPORTS

The Australian Wheat Board announced that it has firm commitments for the purchase of over 14 million metric tons of wheat. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the major buyers are the USSR, China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Japan.

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. 34:

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORLD OILSEEDS PRODUCTION

The world production of oilseeds for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record of nearly 193 million tons, down 1 million, 600 thousand or 1 pct. from last month, but up 1 pct. from last year. The U.S. production is unchanged at 65½ million tons, up 11 pct. from last year. Foreign production is estimated at just over 127 million tons, down 1 million, 600 thousand tons or 1 pct. from last month and down 3 pct. from last year's record.

NEW USSR DECREE IN AGRICULTURE

On March 29, the USSR published a lengthy decree on steps to improve the performance of Soviet agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that the decree allows for greater flexibility in food marketing at the regional and local level by establishing set targets for supply of agricultural commodities to the State and allowing farms leeway in marketing production above this amount. Among other provisions, the decree addresses the problems of worker incentives, credit and investment policies in agriculture, price policy and the need for more reliable cost accounting at the farm level.

USDA RED MEAT PURCHASES

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced on April 15 that the Commodity Credit Corporation made its first purchase of red meat under the 400-million-pound purchase program authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985. He also announced a new purchase program in support of the fed-beef market. The initial purchase of 5-3/4 million pounds of canned beef is one of the largest single buys of this product. Purchases of canned beef will continue to be made weekly. Additionally, weekly purchases of frozen ground beef and smoked, fully cooked, shankless hams are scheduled. Lyng also announced that CCC will begin buying high quality beef roasts to support prices to cattlemen who are operating well below break even levels. (For information on purchases, call 202-447-2650.)

FOREIGN-OWNED U.S. FARMLAND

Foreign interests owned just over 12 million acres, or slightly less than 1 pct. of U.S. agricultural land as of Dec. 31, 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is 1 million, 900 thousand acres below the acreage reported in 1984.

INDEMNITIES FOR HEPTACHLOR COWS

Dairy farmers facing losses from heptachlor-contaminated feed may soon be eligible for indemnity payments, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. The Administration has requested an emergency supplemental appropriation.

LOWER WORLD GRAIN PRICES

Lower world grain prices in 1986/87 continue to be the focus of the current world grain situation and outlook, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An initial result of this trend may be changing differentials between U.S. and foreign grain prices. This type of a change is likely to make U.S. grain relatively less expensive and therefore, more competitive. One example of the initial foreign response to lower prices is that the Canadian 1986/87 initial wheat payments will be significantly less than in 1985/86, down by a full 19 pct. By comparison, however, the U.S. loan rate has fallen nearly 38 pct.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL ISSUES...Sec'y of Agri. Richard Lyng recently held a press conference in Washington, D.C., where he described his immediate goals to expedite implementation of the 1985 Farm Bill and to regain lost export markets. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (166)

RED-MEAT PURCHASING POLICY...The U.S. Department of Agriculture is undertaking a number of actions in its red-meat purchasing policy to offset the market impact of the dairy whole-herd buyout program. USDA analyst John Riesz examines the latest actions of this policy. Vic Powell interviews. (167)

FARM LAND VALUES...U.S. farmland values averaged $596 an acre last February, down 12 percent or $83 from last year's $679. USDA economist Bill Heneberry takes a look at factors contributing to this decline. Vic Powell interviews. (168)

56TH NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE...Audrey Wystrach, 4-H member from Arizona, talks about the theme of this year's National 4-H Conference, "4-H for Youth for America," and some of this year's objectives. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (169)

56TH NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE...Greater involvement of youth and adults in 4-H program development at all levels is one of the major objectives of this year's National 4-H Conference. Holly Harris, a 4-H member from Tennessee, talks about topics of priority concern in 4-H today. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (170)

Food & Fitness
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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1507...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) In the first of a two part look at the woes of Florida citrus producers, Brenda Curtis focuses on the effects of recent freezes in Florida.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1496...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; A report on first Conservation Reserve sign-up; Farmers Home Chief urges State compliance with new loan criteria; Biotechnology--new science and new controversy; Sec'y Lyng and the EC.

CONSUMER TIME #989...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) On being a stepparent; Junk food substitutes; Breast feeding and income; Saving electric shock victims; The comeback of lamb?

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Apr. 23, Poultry production; Fri, Apr. 25, Cattle on feed and Livestock slaughter; Mon, Apr. 28, Cotton and wool situation; Tues, Apr. 29, Crop and weather update, Rice and grain stocks, Wed, Apr. 30, Agricultural prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ESt each working day.

OFF MIKE

"On the beautiful Eastern Shore, a half-mile from the Bay and the beach." If that sounds like a sell job, you're right. It's a quote from Amy Johns, news director of WICO, Salisbury, Maryland. She's looking for a farm director to replace Carl Briggs who left to be operations manager at WDMV, Pocomoke City, same state. Amy's phone number is 301-742-3219 ... Many farm broadcasters (probably the older ones) will remember Ken Gapen. He was Chief of USDA Radio and Television from 1946 to 1954. He was Layne Beaty's predecessor. Ken died in January ... Clay Pederson reports that on April 1, the Great American Ag Net merged with the Ag America Net and is now known as the American Agriculture Network. Lyle Romine is co-farm director of the combined nets with Clay. Headquarters will be in Fargo, NoDak ... Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, Kans) was appointed to a two-year term on the Kansas FFA Alumni Executive Council ... Something you TV types may be interested in. Dave Carter of USDA's Economic Management Service information staff has produced a 23-minute, broadcast quality video documentary on how USDA collects, analyzes and disseminates market information. It's called "Today and Tomorrow." If you would like a 3/4-inch videocassette, call Dave at 202-786-1494, or write him at USDA-EMS, Rm 228E, 1301 New York Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 ... More stories about the walking wounded in our ranks. In talking with Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, Kans), we learned he's suffering from a bad back, which he got while moving a washer and/or dryer, down a narrow stairway. And his co-worker Paul Pippert is finally back on the job after fighting off pneumonia ... Jack McConnell (KNOX, Grand Forks, NoDak) sent us his daily broadcast schedule...printed on label stock, designed for sticking on a tractor windshield (or wherever) as a reminder to the farmer of what's on where and when. Nice idea.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

KARY

MAY 15 1986

U. S. GOVT. PUBS.

Letter No. 2259 April 24, 1986

SOVIET SEEDING AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

The spring seeding in the Soviet is well ahead of the 1985 pace, but behind other recent years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As of April 14, some 17.8 million hectares (44 million acres) of spring crops had been seeded, including 9.4 million (24 million acres) of small grains and pulses. The winter crops are developing 15 to 20 ahead of normal in the Ukraine and North Caucasus.

SALES TO USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the sales of 200,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR. These sales are for delivery during the 1985-86 marketing year and are under the third year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement.

ARGENTINA CORN SALES

Argentina's aggressive program to market its record 1985/86 corn export availabilities of 9.5 million tons continues to displace U.S. corn exports to traditional U.S. markets, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Due to an apparent lack of Soviet corn purchases, Argentina continues to seek new outlets and recently made unprecedented corn sales to Korea.

LARGEST CHANGE IN U.S. WHEAT EXPORTS

U.S. wheat exports fell 17.4 million tons in volume in 1985 to 24.8 million tons, as importers either increased their own wheat production or switched some of their purchases to competing exporters. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, wheat exports dropped 44 pct. in value, or $2.9 billion, as lower prices and volume took their toll. The largest decline came as a much improved Soviet crop reduced U.S. wheat exports to the Soviet from 6.6 million tons to 1.1 million tons.

VACCINE SALES RESUME

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on April 22 released a document detailing the scientific review and safety of a genetically altered vaccine to protect pigs from pseudorabies. The manufacturer of the vaccine, who voluntarily suspended sales pending documentation of the review process, resumed sales on April 23. The document shows pigs vaccinated with the new vaccine will not be harmed, the vaccine will not spread pseudorabies to non-vaccinated pigs, the vaccine will not affect non-target species and will not spread into the environment.

United States Department of Agriculture — Office of Information
Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

A21.34:

FEED GRAINS TO KOREA

The European Community recently sold an additional 50,000 metric tons of feed wheat to Korea. The entry of EC feed wheat into the Korean market apparently has prompted a downward spiral in the price of imported feed grains, leading to a dramatic decline in the U.S. share of Korea's feed grain imports. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as a result of uncompetitive U.S. prices, the U.S. share of the Korean feed grain market stands at 16 pct. for the first several months of 1986, down sharply from 99 pct. in 1982.

CONSERVATION RESERVE SIGNUP: MAY 5 - 16

Farmers who want to bid to enter their highly erodible cropland into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's conservation reserve program may do so during the second signup period, May 5-16. According to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng, producers will be offered the option to bid for a conservation reserve program contract beginning with either the 1986 or 1987 crop year. The only acreage limitation that applies for the second signup is that a maximum of 25 pct. of the cropland in a county may be entered into the program.

X MARKS THE SPOT

Under Sec'y of Agriculture Daniel Amstutz, announced changes in branding instructions under the dairy buyout program. The amended branding instructions will allow producers to choose freeze branding as an alternative. The producer cannot be required to use hot-iron branding. However, if hot-iron branding is chosen, it is strongly recommended that an electrical thermostatically-controlled branding iron be used. This will provide uniform heat and will result in a better brand with less chance of accidental injury to the dairy cattle. It's further suggested that the area to be branded be desensitized in some manner. A veterinarian should be consulted.

FUEL LOWERING COSTS

About 5 pct. of last year's farm production expenses--or $7 billion--went for fuel and oil, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If prices paid for gasoline and diesel fuel in 1986 average 20 to 30 pct. below 1985, the direct cut in farmers' fuel costs could be $1 to $2 billion.

BALANCING PRODUCTION AND COSTS

The combined world supplies of wheat, coarse grains, rice and soybeans are forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exceed the quantities consumed during 1985/86 by approximately 20 pct. Supplies a year ago were 16 pct. greater than consumption. One benefit of the abundant world supplies is that lower feed prices are reducing the U.S. livestock industry's cash costs. At the same time, the drop in oil price is easing cash production costs on farms. Consequently, net farm income may remain near the 1985 record high in 1986.

UPS & DOWNS OF FARM PRICES

Farm prices for feed grains, wheat, and soybeans are 5 to 15 pct. lower than last season, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Feed accounted for about 20 pct. of total cash costs in producing fed cattle last year. The grain price declines will allow cattle feeders to pay higher prices for feed steers this year, but will still reduce cash costs for producing fed cattle. The lower grain prices are having a greater effect on the hog, dairy and poultry industries, since feed concentrates account for a greater share of their cash costs.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. AND EC TRADE ISSUES...Sec'y of Agric. Richard Lyng recently held a news briefing in Washington, D.C., where he talked about his recent trip to Europe and issues discussed there, including the European Community's recent actions involving Portugal and Spain that limit U.S. exports to these nations. Vic Powell interviews. (171)

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK... Abundant grain supplies are reducing costs for the livestock industry, while the decline in oil prices is lowering production costs on farms. USDA economist Herb Moses talks about these and other factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (172)

HEPTACHLOR INDEMNITY PAYMENTS...The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced that dairy farmers facing losses from heptachlor contaminated feed may soon be eligible for indemnity payments. Earle Bedenbaugh with USDA's Agri. Stab. and Cons. Serv. comments on the heptachlor problem and its impact on farmers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (173)

AGRICULTURAL FUTURES MARKETS...Phil Garcia, Univ. of Illinois, focuses on why agricultural futures markets are important to farmers and other market participants in generating pricing information and presenting opportunities for forward pricing. Gary Beaumont interviews. (174)

ARS RESEARCH REPORTS...Agricultural research scientists are developing new varieties of lettuce through the Lettuce Germplasm Collection in Salinas, Calif.; and are studing a new range improvement machine to improve surface conditions on valuable farmland in Miles City, Mont. Will Pemble reports. (175)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1508...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) This is part two of a two part look at the woes of the Florida citrus industry. This time Brenda Curtis explores the aftermath of the Citrus Canker disease that hit Florida in 1984.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1497...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; The freeze and its aftermath; The canker; Don't store winter fuel in warm weather.

CONSUMER TIME #990...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Aspirin and working out; Protecting your child from electrical shock; Color moods; Bulk foods; Blood cholesterol and your diet.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, May 5, Dairy products report; Tues, May 6, Weekly weather and crop outlook; Fri, May 9, Crop production report; World ag. supply and demand. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Rick Halmes is back in the farm broadcaster saddle again. He's the new farm broadcaster at KEIN, Great Falls, Mont, and has been on the job since the first of March ... Another Rick, this time Rick Hazen has a new job, too. He's leaving KCOW, Alliance, Neb., to be news director at WLTN, Littleton, New Hampshire. Pete Hunsinger replaces Rick at KCOW ... Congratulations are in order for a first time poppa. He's Max Armstrong (WGN, Chicago, Ill.) Max and spouse Linda are the proud parents of Kristi Nicole born April 18 ... Herb Plambeck (Des Moines, Iowa) checked in after returning from a five country trip with a group of 38. Herb reports they visited Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil. Farmers in the latter two countries, Herb said, aren't making money either. Incidentally, it looks like the annual NAFB Farm-City Week public service announcement project will be in good hands again. Herb has agreed to be involved again...and we think that means the chairmanship, but we're waiting for confirmation ... Our Gary Crawford (USDA Radio) has been starring in the musical "Two by Two" in Manassas, Virginia. The Prince Williams Little Theatre group enticed Gary to try out and he wowed them with his talent, even though he's never acted in a play or a musical ... Latest newsletter to hit our desk is the ANN Farm Digest (ANN standing for Agricultural News Network, Neillsville, Wis. Our thanks to Bob Zank for adding us to his mailing list. Incidentally, his closing thought in the news letter was: "To err is human, but to really screw up takes a computer." (Attributed to the infamous "Anonymous") ... Speaking of our closing line, here's ours, courtesy of Johnny Martin (Ohio Farm Bureau, Columbus: "My cow just died, so I don't need your bull!"

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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2260

Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2260 May 1, 1986

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WORLD FOOD NEEDS

During 1985/86, food needs in 69 developing countries are estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 8 million, 700 thousand tons of cereals. The projected needs are in excess of estimated commercial import capacity to maintain consumption at average levels of recent years. To meet minimum nutritional standards, the 69 countries would require 15½ million tons of additional cereals in 1986/87, 4½ million less than the previous year.

MORE RED MEAT PURCHASES

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that the Commodity Credit Corporation purchased over 17½ million pounds of ground beef and canned beef at the end of April. Since the announcement of the red-meat buyout program, USDA has purchased 39-1/3 million pounds at an approximate cost of $41,261,000. (For more information on purchases, call 202-447-2650.)

USDA EASING DAIRY PROGRAM IMPACT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking steps to avoid domestic red meat market displacements due to the dairy program, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. USDA will make additional red meat purchases in a manner that ensures purchases in each of the program's periods will be proportionate to the estimated slaughter of cattle under the program for that period. The three periods are April 1 to Aug. 31, 1986; Sept. 1 to Feb. 28, 1987; and March 1 to Aug. 31, 1987. The Commodity Credit Corporation will contact program participants to determine the month or months in which they intend to slaughter their cows, heifers and calves. Producers will also be asked for a report of their intentions to export cattle.

AUSTRALIA'S WHEAT EXPORTS ON TARGET

The Australian Wheat Board announced that it has firm commitments for the purchase of over 14 million tons of wheat, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Australia has an excellent chance of achieving its wheat export target of 16 million tons. Major Australian wheat buyers are China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

SRS NOW NASS

The Statistical Reporting Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been renamed the National Agricultural Statistics Service. According to William E. Kibler, the agency's administrator, the new name will reflect more accurately the agency's purpose and broad agricultural focus. The agency's Crop Reporting Board will now be called the Agricultural Statistics Board. This name also will describe more accurately the scope of the board's work.

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Information
Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

U.S. WHEAT EXPORT FORECAST

As of mid-April, the forecast for 1985/86 U.S. wheat exports remained unchanged at 24½ million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Actual U.S. wheat exports through April 17 totaled 20½ million tons, nearly 40 pct. below last year's level of nearly 34 million tons.

U.S. WHEAT PRICES MORE COMPETITIVE

Recent sales of new-crop U.S. wheat indicate that U.S. export prices have become somewhat more competitive on the world market, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Through mid-April, wheat sales for shipment in the 1986/87 marketing year totaled 1.7 million tons, nearly double sales for the corresponding period last year.

CANADA SUPPLEMENTS FARMER INCOMES

The Canadian Government has announced record interim Western Grain Stabilization Program payments totaling 580 million Canadian dollars to participating prairie farmers for their 1985/86 crop, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This program supplements farmers' incomes, allowing them to continue production, often in competition with U.S. farmers. Payouts are triggered when earnings from a basket of commodities - that is, wheat, barley, oats, rye, rapeseed, flaxseed, and mustard - fall below average earnings for the previous 5 years.

EC PREPARES FOR U.S. NEW-CROP WHEAT

In preparation for greater competition from lower-priced, new-crop U.S. wheat, the European Commission has shifted wheat exports from free market supplies to intervention sales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With this shift, the Commission hopes to reduce its expenditures for storing large amounts of low-quality wheat. And by restricting exports of free market wheat, the Commission can effectively maintain internal wheat supplies at an adequate level and stimulate domestic demand by lowering internal-European Community prices. This could narrow the expected gap between high EC and reduced world wheat prices.

COARSE GRAIN EXPORT FORECAST

In mid-April, the 1985/86 U.S. coarse grain export forecast was lowered nearly 2 million tons to 44 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A reduction in the U.S. corn export forecast, just under 37 million tons was responsible for all the decline. The apparent lack of demand for feed grains in Europe and the USSR continues to result in lagging U.S. corn sales. As of April 17, U.S. corn exports totaled just under 24 million tons, over 23 pct. below exports for the corresponding period in 1984/85.

U.S. MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORN

There are indications that Romania may import over 500,000 tons of corn during the calendar year 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Competitively priced U.S. corn could gain a large share of this market opportunity. The German Democratic Republic also indicated that lower prices of U.S. corn may make it more attractive in the future.

PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 2 POINTS

The April Index of Prices Received by Farmers for All Farm Products decreased 2 points - 1.6 pct. - from March to 120 pct. for its Jan.-Dec. 1977 average, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Lower prices for eggs, cattle, hogs, wheat, and milk were partially offset by higher prices for lettuce, potatoes and tomatoes. The index was 12 points - 9.1 pct. - below a year ago.

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

COMBATING GYPSY MOTH SPREAD...Gary Moorehead with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service describes the damage caused by gypsy moths and the types of control methods underway. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (176)

RURAL ROADS AND BRIDGES - I...A recent study reveals that ninety percent of all bridge deficiencies in the U.S. are located on rural roads. Ruth McWilliams with USDA's Office of Transportation examines the rural roads and bridge problem. Vic Powell interviews. (177)

RURAL ROADS AND BRIDGES - II...Ruth McWilliams with USDA's Office of Transportation continues her discussion on the rural roads and bridge problem in the U.S., including the type of assistance the Office of Transportation is offering. Vic Powell interviews. (178)

FARM FINANCIAL STRESS - THE HIDDEN DIMENSION...Allan Lines, Ohio State University Extension Farm Management, talks about financial stress on U.S. farms and how current statistics and figures change in terms of economic conditions when the farm "business" instead of the farm family becomes the focus. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (179)

GAS SAFETY...Many changes have occurred in the past twelve years in gasoline used in automobiles and other gasoline-powered engines. Rollin Schneider, a Federal extension farm safety coordinator with the University of Nebraska focuses on these changes and what operators can do to ensure safety. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (180)

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1509...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) George Holmes takes an in-depth look at Biotechnology. Is it really helping American agriculture? He talks to experts on both sides of the issue.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1498...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Farmers: Victims of efficiency?; Citrus Part I, "The Freeze"; Citrus Part II, "The Canker."

CONSUMER TIME #991...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Reseeding your lawn; Saving seeds; Using a rethatching machine; Pollutants as nutrients; Genetic engineering...good or bad?

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, May 13, Weekly weather and crop summary; Wed, May 14, Milk production report; Thurs, May 15, Cattle on feed. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng has appointed Lynne Melillo as his press secretary. She replaces John Ochs who resigned to take a position with the Ford Motor Company. Lynne was press secretary to Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) ...Wow! We're impressed. Two times over, in fact. First we learned that the UPI Broadcasters Assoc. of Iowa honored Herb Plamheck (Living History Farms, Des Moines, Iowa) with its prestigious H.R. Gross Award, named after the first news director at WHO, Des Moines and awarded for life-long achievements in broadcasting. Then we found out that Warren Nielson (KFAB, Omaha, Neb) received not one, not two, but three awards in three months. In January it was the Nebraska Fertilizer & Ag-Chemical Institute's 1986 Media Award, and in March it was the Nebraska Council on Public Relations for Agriculture's AgRelations Award and the Mid-America Dairymen' Inc.'s 1986 Salute Award. Our congratulations to Herb and Warren!! ... Amy Johns, news director at WICO, Salisbury, Maryland, called to report she has filled the farm director's position. He's Kevin Scott, former news director at WCTD, Federalsburg, MD. Amy also took us to task (mildly) for misquoting her. WICO is a half-mile from the beach. Wrong! The station is a half-hour away. Also she said she received a call from Charlie Schumucker in Beaumont, Texas. He said he was tempted to apply for the job but it seems he's kinda set in his ways. He's 75 years old and has been broadcasting farm news for 37 of them ... Julie Terstriep (WLRB/WKAI, Macomb, Ill) dropped us a note and enclosed some farm programming cards "...much like Jack Mcconnell..." we mentioned in a recent newsletter. Julie reported her station also conducted a farm input give-away promotion, and she asked us to send them some rain. Sorry, we're getting short here, too ... Davonna Oskarson is no longer with the Martin Agency in Richmond, Virginia, because of account reassignments. She looking for another position...and getting ready for her wedding in July.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

Farm Broadcasters Letter
Radio and Television, Rm. 410-A
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Farm Broadcasters Letter

MAY 28 1986
U. S. GOVT. PUBS.
DEPOSITORY

Letter No. 2261

May 8, 1986

SALES TO USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture changes in deliveries from unknown destinations to the USSR for 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery during the 1985-86 marketing year and under the third year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the third year of the agreement, which ends Sept. 30, 1986, now total just over 6-1/2 million tons, of which wheat is 152,600 tons and the rest is corn. In addition, sales of soybeans total 1-1/2 million tons.

EXPORT GRAIN MEETS REQUIREMENTS

A study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture concludes that 1985 export shipments of U.S. wheat, corn and soybeans on average met or exceeded the requirements for the grade of grain specified by shippers. (For more information and copies of the report, contact Allen Atwood, USDA, Federal Grain Inspection Service, Rm. 1095-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. Or call 202-475-3367.)

HOG CONSUMPTION

Pork production may decline only about 2 pct. from last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Pork consumption on a per capita basis may drop 2 pounds in 1986 after remaining at 62 pounds a person during 1983-85. Smaller supplies are expected to strengthen retail pork prices relative to 1985 and 1984's $1.62 per pound.

LOTS OF MEAT BEFORE COWS

Before the announcement of participation in the Dairy Termination Program, the market was already burdened with large beef supplies and low prices, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This was due to a slower-than-expected marketing pace and continued record heavy slaughter weights. However, beef production and total red meat supplies are expected to drop below year-earlier levels in 1986. Total red meat and poultry consumption will remain large, but on a per capita basis may fall 2 to 3 pounds below last year's record 214 pounds per person.

KNIPLING IN HALL OF FAME

Dr. Edward Knipling, a pioneer in insect control technology at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is USDA's first inductee into its scientific hall of fame. Knipling, an entomologist, is best known for developing the sterile male technique of insect control. The technique is now effectively used against Mediterranean fruit flies, gypsy moths, cotton boll weevils, teste files and screwworms.

United States Department of Agriculture — Office of Information
Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

1 21

USDA SEEKING OFFERS FROM EC FOR BEEF

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation is seeking tender offers from the European Community to purchase U.S. high-quality beef. Sales will be made by CCC directly to importers in the EC. The CCC will purchase the high-quality beef in the U.S. market for export against the sales. (More details are available from the Export Credits Division, Foreign Ag Service, Rm. 4503-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Or call 202-382-9240.)

FROM THE TURKEY AND HEN COOP

Turkey consumption rose a pound a person in 1985, after holding steady at about 11 pounds per person in 1983 and 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1986, per capita consumption may increase another 1 to 1-1/2 pounds while wholesale prices decline only modestly. In 1985, per capita consumption of eggs fell 6 eggs per person from 1984. Egg producers have experienced sharp price fluctuations in the past 2 years that make production planning difficult. For 1986, more pullets are being added and additional egg production is expected. However, per capita consumption may decline by 3 eggs and prices may increase.

DAIRY HIGHLIGHTS

Dairy production highlights for March, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that butter production was 120 million pounds, 13 pct. above March 1985. American type cheese production totaled 264 million pounds, 14 pct. above March 1985. Total cheese output, excluding cottage cheese, during March was 463 million pounds, 12 pct. above March 1985. Nonfat dry milk for human food was 128 million pounds, up 23 pct.

COMMODITIES FOR SCHOOL LUNCH

A U.S. Department of Agriculture study supports the current system of providing government commodities through the National School Lunch Program to over 23 million children who participate each year. Schools presently receive about 15 pct., or $460 million, of their guaranteed federal subsidies in the form of commodities. The remainder is in cash. The study found that the present commodity program provides significantly more food than alternate programs. It also provides foods not as highly processed, which among other things means less salt in the children's diets.

WILD BEAN RESISTS ROT

A wild, black-seeded bean from mexico may lead to a new bush snap bean that resists one of the worst root rot diseases, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It took 20 years of crossing U.S. beans with the Mexican bean to achieve resistance to Fusarium root rot as well as three other key diseases. Right now only plant breeders will be getting the line, named FR-266. It's still at least one cross away from being available to farmers and home gardeners. (For details, contact Matt Silbernagel, plant pathologist, ARS-USDA, Prosser, Wash. 99350. Or call: 509-786-3454.)

THE SHINE OF AFLATOXIN

Almonds shine a fluorescent purple under ultra-violet light if they are contaminated by a rare but naturally occurring toxin, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purple glow pinpoints rare instances of aflatoxin, which occurs approximately once in every 26,500 almonds. Toxin-free kernels show up as a fluorescent white, blue or yellow.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

COTTON AND WOOL OUTLOOK...World cotton consumption set a record last year while production declined, but stocks are expected to continue enlarging. USDA economist Sam Evans takes a look at the current cotton and wool outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (181)

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen describes the overall outlook for current crop conditions across the U.S., including dry conditions in tthe Southeast and wet conditions in the West. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (182)

SOVIET GRAIN POLICY...In recent months Soviet Agriculture and the agencies that support it have undergone major modifications. USDA analyst Keith Severin examines these changes and what they can mean for U.S. exports. Vic Powell interviews. (183)

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY OUTLOOK...Beef supplies remain large, the cattle herd continues to decline, and per capita beef consumption is expected to drop three pounds. USDA economist Leland Southard comments on the current livestock and poultry outlook. Vic Powell interviews. (184)

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION COOPERATIVES...Harold Hunter, administrator with USDA's Rural Electrification Administration talks about changes taking place in this agency, including how rural electric and telephone cooperatives are now serving large, non-rural, urbanized areas. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (185)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1510...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Forests in some areas of Europe are dying or in a steep decline. Trees in some parts of this country also are showing signs of decline. Gary Crawford reports on the debate surrounding the possible causes and cures for the situation.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1499...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Details on commodity certificate program; Potato situation not so hot; Citrus research continues; The Soviet River diversion project.

CONSUMER TIME #992...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Caution on aspartame; Foods and cancer; Adding lime to your lawn; Battling lawn weeds; Sugar, sugar everywhere.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed., May 14, U.S. milk production; Thurs., May 15, Western Europe outlook, Cattle on feed report; Fri., May 16, Agricultural outlook report; Mon., May 19, Wheat situation and outlook; Tues., May 20, Catfish production, farm labor report; Wed., May 21, Export outlook; Thurs., May 22, Poultry production report; Mon., May 26 (Holiday...newsline will continue to offer same items as on Friday the 23rd.)

OFF MIKE

Former Director of USDA's Office of Information Lyle Webster, now retired and loving it in Hawaii, dropped us a note with an interesting observation concerning the predominance of items about world agriculture in this letter: "Is this a conscious policy? Is it what the broadcasters ask for?" Lyle asked, and went on to say, "I don't object; in fact I find them interesting. I just wondered how it happens." Quite frankly, it pretty much just happens that way. More and more information pertains to international trade, and the interest for information about what's happening elsewhere in the world continues to grow. Thanks for the questions, Lyle, and nice to hear from you ... KASU, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, is looking for a farm broadcaster. Send resume' and audition tape to: Richard Carvell, Station Manager, P.O. Box 2160, State University, AR 72467 ... Latest newsletter to arrive was from the Independent Florida Agrinet, Ocala, FL. Our thanks to Cindy Zimmerman for putting us on her mailing list ... Letter from Norman Hyde, Virginia Farm Bureau, Richmond. He wrote to tell us he's doing basically the same thing with the Virginia News Network, as Murray Miles, Tennessee Farm Bureau, is doing with the Tennessee Radio Net (see Farm Broadcaster Letter, April 3). Norman reports he's providing a 5-minute program to the Virginia News Net and has been for the past 7 years ... Gary Truitt (Indiana AgriBusiness Net, Indianapolis) says there's absolutely no basis for the rumor that if you play his opening theme backwards you'll hear satanic messages ... Our apologies for the lateness of this next item, but we've been saving it for the right time. The Feb-March issue of the National Future Farmer magazine had a cover picture of Valerie Parks, and inside were four more pictures of Valerie, one looking over the shoulder of Ed Johnson (AgriBroadcast Net, Columbus, Ohio). She puts in a broadcast stint at the network, then heads for classes at Ohio State. The article pointed out that Valerie's broadcast day starts at 5:30. We noted with interest that in the picture with Ed, the clock said 8:15. Ah, 'tis good to be the boss.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio-Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2262 May 15, 1986

CHERNOBYL'S EFFECT ON TRADE UNKNOWN

Insufficient information on the extent of contamination in the USSR resulting from the Chernobyl accident limits the ability of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to forecast effects on Soviet agriculture and trade. For this reason, the following information in regards to the USSR was not adjusted to reflect any effects of the accident.

USSR GRAIN CROP FORECAST

The initial U.S. Department of Agriculture's forecast of the 1986 Soviet grain crop is 190 million tons, the same as the 1985 estimated crop. The estimate includes 80 million tons of wheat, 98 million coarse grains and 12 million miscellaneous grains and pulses. The total grain area is estimated at 118 million hectares, marginally above 1985's area of 117.9 million hectares.

USSR GRAIN IMPORTS DELAYED

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The second half of the 1985/86 marketing year witnessed a significant slowdown in USSR's grain imports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. So far, buying for 1986/87 delivery appears to be minimal. Expectations of lower world grain prices this summer and fall, as a result of the new U.S. farm legislation, may be encouraging the USSR to delay late-season grain purchases. Lower revenues from oil exports, a major source of foreign exchange, may be reflected in reduced USSR expenditures on imports, particularly for grain. Chernobyl creates additional uncertainty about the level of USSR grain requirements for the 1986/87 marketing year.

USSR IMPORTS FOR 1986/87 PROJECTED

The Soviet's grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year are projected at 30 million tons from all sources, up slightly from the year-earlier level but well below the 1980/81 - 1984/85 average import level of around 40 million tons. During this period the USSR estimated grain outturn averaged close to 180 million tons. The Soviet currently has grain trading agreements that cover annual trade of around 20 million tons. The Soviet currently has grain trading agreements that cover annual trade of around 20 million tons. The USSR may be de-emphasizing the importance of agreements in meeting annual grain import requirements. USSR wheat imports appear to have stabilized in the area of 20 million tons.

WORLD PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS, 1985/86

The world production of wheat for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 503 million tons. World coarse grain production for 1985/86 is estimated at a record of nearly 843 million tons. World oilseeds production for 1985/86 is estimated at nearly 193 million tons. U.S. production is estimated at just under 65½ million tons.

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Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

A21.34:

USSR COARSE GRAIN IMPORTS

In recent years, USSR coarse grain imports have shown much more volatility than wheat trade, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports reached 25½ million tons in 1981/82, only to plummet the next year to around 11 million. A reduced 1984 crop caused another surge in imports to a record of almost 27 million tons. Imports for 1985/86 are currently projected at 12 million tons. The USSR 1986 coarse grain crop is estimated at 98 million tons, the second largest since 1978. The U.S. share of the USSR coarse grain market has averaged around 50 pct. in recent years and should hold or even improve in 1986/87 given the new U.S. farm legislation and expected lower corn prices.

WORLD COARSE GRAIN PROD. HIGHLIGHTS, 1986/87

The world production of coarse grains for 1986/87 is projected at 819 million tons, down nearly 24 million or 3 pct. from last year's record crop, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. production is forecast at 235 million tons; USSR, 98 million; China, 94 million; Canada, 23 million; Brazil, 23 million; European Community, 86 million; and East Europe, 69 million tons of coarse grains.

FALLING WHEAT PRICES

Sharply lower world wheat prices are expected to have only a modest impact on wheat supplies in 1986/87, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To a large extent, the projected record crop of approximately 510 million metric tons was planned or in the ground prior to the realization that prices would fall drastically in 1986/87. However, lower prices may stimulate utilization and increase wheat import demand causing trade to recover somewhat from the depressed level of 1985/86. But despite record utilization, world wheat ending stocks will likely increase to more than 130 million tons, nearly 30 pct. of the forecast 1986/87 utilization.

U.S. WHEAT TRADE PROSPECTS

Prospects for U.S. wheat exports are expected to increase markedly in 1986/87, up nearly 20 pct. from the low 1985/86 level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. At about 30 million tons, U.S. wheat exports would account for about 33 pct. of forecast world wheat trade. Prices for U.S. wheat are expected to be sharply lower in 1986/87 than in 1985/86. Therefore, other advantages such as a wide variety of wheat qualities, numerous port loading facilities, and year-round availabilities may again begin to influence importer buying decisions.

COARSE GRAINS PROSPECTS

Despite prospects for sharply lower prices, world coarse grain trade in 1986/87 is expected to recover only slightly from the depressed 1985/86 level, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Global import demand appears sluggish as a result of forecast record production outside of the U.S., little evidence of expanding livestock herds or increased compound feed use, and the continuing competition from still ample exportable supplies of feed-quality wheat and manioc.

U.S. CROP PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. winter wheat production is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 1 billion 600 million bushels as of May 1, that's 12 pct. less than the 1985 production. Citrus production is forecast at 11 million tons, 7 pct. higher than last season. Spring potatoes are forecast at 19½ million per hundredweight, 15 pct. below last year and 18 pct. below 1984.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

BIOTECHNOLOGY - I...USDA scientist Dr. Machi Dilworth describes the basic concept of biotechnology and genetic engineering and discusses some of the major concerns with this science. Don Elder interviews. (186)

BIOTECHNOLOGY - II...USDA scientist Dr. Machi Dilworth continues the discussion on biotechnology and genetic engineering focusing on the benefits, concerns and controversy surrounding this science in the area of plants. Don Elder interviews. (187)

BIOTECHNOLOGY - III...USDA scientist Dr. Ken Cremer talks about biotechnology and the concern that this area of science be rigidly controlled to protect the public welfare. Don Elder interviews. (188)

SOUTHEAST FOREST FIRES...Weather conditions in the Southeast created dry timberland. USDA's Al West, Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry, comments about the effort being made to control thousands of forest fires. Vic Powell interviews. (189)

RANGELAND GRASSHOPPER PROGRAM...The 1986 control effort will feature the combined use of pesticide spraying and a biological control agent. USDA's Bill Helms, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, outlines the Federal and State cooperative approach. Vic Powell interviews. (190)

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FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1511...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) As competition on world grain markets has gone up, complaints about the quality of the U.S. product have also increased. Brenda Curtis takes a look at the question of the quality of U.S. grain.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1500...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; USDA looks for guidance on '87 farm programs; USDA reports sign up for '86 programs; The promise of biotechnology.

CONSUMER TIME #993...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Food safety for picnics; Where's the maple syrup; Forest mystery; Window on the past; Overweight and overfed children.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, May 21, Export outlook; Thurs, May 22, Poultry production; Wed, May 28, Eastern Europe outlook, U.S. crop and weather update; Fri, May 30, Agricultural prices. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Jimmy Burke is no longer at WHOP, Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He's in the same community, but he's now working on television, at W43AG to be exact. He worked with "Colonel" Dink Embry at WHOP for three years ... Clare Morganthaler replaced Jack Stower at WDZQ, Decatur, Illinois. As we reported earlier, Jack moved over to KSOY, same community, as an account executive ... Julie Terstriep (WLRB/WKAI, Macomb, Illinois) reported we helped her community too much. In an earlier letter she asked for rain. Her area received 3-4 inches, including a huge downpour May 6 with golf ball size hail. Gee, Julie, you didn't specify. Incidentally, she also reported on a new promotion called WLRB Farm Boosters. The station is running upbeat messages on agriculture and tagging each with a different sponsor's name. She says the upbeat approach is going over good ... Latest news about Fortunato "Lucky" Teho. He was one of 12 "Filipino Firsts" honored as part of the 80th year of Filipinos in Hawaii celebration. Among other factors that brought him the honor, Lucky was identified as producer of the oldest agricultural radio and television program in Hawaii. Our congratulations! ... Another "freebie!" This time it's the Book of Agricultural Statistics, and we have a limited number of free copies. It contains everything you've ever wanted to know about agriculture...from soup to nuts. Well, maybe from soup ingredients to nuts. Let us know if you would like a copy ... Rod Johnson (KDHL, Faribault, Minn) has a new assistant. He's Jon Burvee ... We see where Orion Samuelson's smiling face made it into the BROADCASTING magazine, April 21 issue to be exact. Picture shows Orion and Deere & Co's Boyd Bartlett sealing new agreement with a handshake ... Next week we'll be in Spokane, Wash. at the Western Regional NAFB meeting. Program chairman Wey Simpson (KXLY, Spokane) has an interesting program put together. More later.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2263 May 22, 1986

LYNG TO CANADA

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng and Under Sec'y Daniel Amstutz will travel to Vancouver, Canada, for a June 2 meeting to discuss grain policy with their counterparts from Argentina, Australia, Canada and the European Community.

FORECAST FOR U.S. FARM EXPORTS

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DEPOSITORY 325

U.S. agricultural exports during fiscal 1986 are forecast at $27.5 billion, down 2 pct. from the Feb. forecast and 12 pct. below fiscal 1985 exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The reduction is due mainly to declines in the price and volume of grain and cotton exports. Importers have delayed purchases this year in anticipation of lower prices in the fall when new, lower loan rates and marketing loan provisions become effective. Exports of soybeans and meal are recording significant increases, largely in response to increased Soviet purchases and drought-reduced production in Brazil.

BUYOUT REVISED

Under a change to the Dairy Buyout Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is soliciting requests from participating dairy farmers to shift the scheduled slaughter of their herds from the program's first contracted disposal period to its second or third. USDA will allow this modification as a result of an agreement reached recently with the National Cattlemen's Association and other beef-industry interests.

FmHA REDUCES RATES

Due to the improved economy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration will reduce interest rates effective June 1 on its farmer program loans for the third consecutive month. The interest rate for farm operating loans will drop from 8.625 pct. to 8.00 pct., and the rate for farm ownership will drop a full point, from 9.25 pct. to 8.25 pct. Limited resource loans for operating purposes will be lowered from 5.6 pct. to 5 pct., the lowest permitted by law. Soil and water loans and Indian Land Acquisition loans will be reduced by a point, from 9.25 pct. to 8.25 pct.

USDA TO HELP REPAIR RURAL HOMES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Admin. will soon be accepting applications for grants to help repair and rehabilitate homes for very-low and low-income rural homeowners. Applications will be accepted beginning June 12 until July 28 from qualified public and private nonprofit organizations for grants totaling more than $19 million. For more information, contact the local FmHA office.

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A21.34:

LESS U.S. WHEAT FOR 1986

As of May 1, the 1986 U.S. winter wheat harvest is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 1.60 billion bushels, 12 pct. under 1985 and a 7-year low. Program participation helped reduce prospective winter wheat harvest acreage about 10 pct. from last season. Winter damage and spring dryness significantly lowered the outlook for the 1986 soft red winter crop. Dryness in the Southern Plains reduced the forecast for hard red winter yields. Heavy acreage reduction program compliance by spring wheat growers may be offset somewhat by favorable soil moisture in the Northern Plains, pointing to total 1986 wheat production approaching 2.2 billion bushels, the smallest in 6 years.

WHEAT SUPPLIES RECORD HIGH

In spite of the smallest total U.S. wheat production in 6 years, the record carryover propels 1986/87 wheat supplies to a record 4.06 billion bushels. The prospects for expanding demand hinge on the impact of lower wheat prices on marketing. The loan rate was reduced for 1986 to $2.40 a bushel, compared to $3.30 in 1985. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this is expected to result in expanded overseas sales in 1986/87, possibly adding 200 million bushels to last year's low volume of 900 million exported.

SURPLUS WHEAT FOR SCHOOLS

According to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng, States may receive an unlimited amount of flour for their school lunch and breakfast programs once they use the amount of flour they traditionally receive. The additional or bonus flour will not be counted as part of the States' regular allotment of USDA donated foods. Said Lyng, "We are taking this step in an effort to increase flour consumption and reduce the stockpile of surplus wheat that USDA is holding...By making flour available only after they use their usual amounts, we will minimize the displacement of commercial sales."

CASH EXPENSES DROP

The cash expenses of farmers in 1986 are forecast to drop 5 to 6 billion dollars from 1985, and close to 11 billion dollars from 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This will be the first time since the early 1930's that cash expenses have declined for 2 consecutive years. This year's drop, combined with larger Government payments, will help support 1986 net cash income at a forecast 42 to 46 billion dollars, about matching the record high estimated for 1985. Net farm income is expected to edge lower this year.

FARMLAND VALUES FELL 12 PCT.

U.S. farmland values fell 12 pct. in 1985, continuing the trend that began in 1981, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The large fall in values, compared with cash rents, has put rent-to-value ratios closer to their pre-1974 levels. This suggests that land values may be stabilizing. Also, declines in interest rates are making it easier to purchase land. On the other hand, cash land rents may continue to decline as multiyear rent contracts expire and are renegotiated at lower levels to reflect expectations of lower returns.

186.3 MILLION ACRES ENROLLED

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng said producers have signed contracts to place just over 186 million acres of upland cotton, extra long staple cotton, feed grain, rice and wheat crop acreage bases in the 1986 acreage limitation programs. The signup was held March 6 through April 25. For the 1985 programs, 67.7 pct. of the 240 million acre crop acreage base was enrolled.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Farmer's cash expenses in 1986 are forecast to drop five to six billion dollars from 1985, and close to 11 billion from 1984. USDA economist Herb Moses discusses farm expenses as well as other factors contributing to the current agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (191)

CURRENT WHEAT OUTLOOK...The 1986 U.S. winter wheat harvest is forecast at 1.6 billion bushels, down 12 percent from last year's total, and a seven year low for winter wheat. USDA economist Allen Schienbein examines the current situation and outlook for wheat. Vic Powell interviews. (192)

MEAT SALES TO BRAZIL...The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently signed a contract to sell Brazil 198 million pounds of beef. Jim Truran, USDA attache stationed in Brazil talks about this sale. Vic Powell interviews. (193)

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM...USDA analyst Jim Parker focuses on the Export Enhancement Program and how it will be used to reverse the decline in U.S. exports and provide needed growth in overseas sales. Vic Powell interviews. (194)

STRESS IN FARM FAMILIES...More and more farm families are experiencing stress which can cause harmful depression. Bob Hughes, University of Illinois, talks about the signs of stress and how farm families can better handle these tough times. Gary Beaumont interviews. (195)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1512...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Some lakes are becoming more acid and less able to support aquatic life. Car finishes and building exteriors are deteriorating more rapidly. Is this due to the effects of acid rain? On this edition Gary Crawford gathers differing views from across the country.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1501...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Changes in export grain standards proposed; Ready cash for farmers; Bentonite reclamation; Sending beans overseas.

CONSUMER TIME #994...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) A diet health study; Insulin and heart disease; Time to plant shrubs; Overweight kids; What to do; Landscaping your yard.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, June 10, Weekly weather and crop summary; Crop production report; Fri, June 13, Milk production report; Mon, June 16, Cattle on feed report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

The word is the regional NAFB meetings held during the past couple weeks have been excellent. We even hear that Dan Gordon (Tennessee Agrinet, Nashville) was "gently" pressured into being elected to serve another term as the National Vice President for the Southeast region. He accepted on the basis that Cindy Zimmerman and her co-workers at the Independent Florida Agrinet, Ocala, will hold the regional meeting in Orlando next year. We also learned that Art Sechres (WJBC, Bloomington, Ill.) attended the SE Regional meeting and walked away with the coveted Jim Graham Barnyard Classis golf trophy. Our congratulations! ... Don Collins, vice-president of communications for The Fertilizer Institute here in Washington, D.C. is taking early retirement at the end of the month and that Tom Waldinger will move up into the VP position ... Ron Francis is the new Director of Communications for the National Association of Conservation Districts. He's headquartered at League City, Tex. No doubt you'll be hearing from him in the near future, if you haven't already ... Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago, Ill.) is probably in Japan as you read this. He was scheduled to leave Chicago for New York, May 21, and for Tokyo, May 22 ... Our Don Elder, who produces the weekly half-hour TV show A BETTER WAY reports he hosted the 500th edition of the show May 21. Margaret Desatnik in our office did a bit of checking with former USDA Radio/TV Chief Layne Beaty and learned that the original program known as ACROSS THE FENCE started in July 1961, and when the program was renamed at the beginning of 1976 there had been 649 editions of ACROSS THE FENCE ... Beginning May 30, we will be on a new satellite and time schedule for distributing our television programming. The original transmission of the programs will be each Friday, and the repeat transmissions will be each Monday. We will be on Spacenet I as follows: FRIDAY Spacenet I/4H (3840 MHZ, Channel 7) 2:45 p.m. EDT, News and Agriculture Update, 3:00 p.m. EDT DOWN TO EARTH, 3:30 p.m. EDT A BETTER WAY. MONDAY Spacenet I/5-H (3880 MHZ, Channel 9) 8:15 a.m. EDT News, 8:30 a.m. DTE, 9:00 a.m. ABW.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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2264

Farm Broadcasters Letter

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Letter No. 2264 JUN 2 5 1986 May 29, 1986

CHERNOBYL EFFECTS UNCERTAIN

The extent to which the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant affected Eastern European agriculture is still uncertain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The area most affected appears to be northeastern Poland, where about a fourth of the country's population lives and about a fourth of the agricultural production takes place. The European Community imposed a temporary ban on farm product imports from Eastern Europe and the Soviet.

U.S. 1985 EXPORTS TO E. EUROPE

U.S. agricultural exports to Eastern Europe in calendar 1985 fell 37 pct. from a year earlier to their lowest level since 1972, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Exports to all countries except Bulgaria fell sharply. Total grain exports came to $113 million, down 29 pct. from 1984. The most dramatic decline was in U.S. soybean exports, which fell from $228 million in 1984 to $81 million. Little change in agricultural exports is expected in 1986. For fiscal 1986, exports are projected at $540 million, up slightly from $531 million in fiscal 1985.

E. EUROPEAN GRAIN PRODUCTION

Grain production in Eastern Europe in 1985 fell 7 pct. below the record 114 million tons in 1984 but was the region's third largest harvest, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wheat production fell just over 10 pct. and coarse grain output was off 6 pct. The record 1984 grain crop made Eastern Europe a net grain exporter in 1985 for the first time in many years. However, this year Eastern Europe will again be a net grain importer. Net imports could be just over 4 million tons.

U.S. EXPORTS TO USSR

Private exporters reported on May 27 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1985-86 marketing year. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the third year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement now total 6,591,900 tons, of which wheat is 152,600 tons and corn is 6,439,300 tons. Sales of soybeans total 1,518,700 tons.

DAIRY CATTLE EXPORT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture surveyed the participants of the Dairy Termination Program on their intentions for the export of dairy cows, heifers and calves. Participants said about 95,000 of the 1½ million animals under the program would be exported.

United States Department of Agriculture — Office of Information
Radio-Television Division — Phone (202) 447-4330 — Washington D.C. 20250

A 21.34:

SOVIET OILSEED FORECAST FOR 1986/87

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Soviet oilseed production for 1986/87 is forecast at just over 11 million metric tons, up 300-thousand tons from this year. Most of the growth will be in sunflowerseed production, which is forecast at 5.4 million tons. Cottonseed production is forecast at 4.875 million tons.

EASTERN EUROPE A NET GRAIN IMPORTER

The East European economies continued to recover from the crisis situation of the early 1980's, but growth in 1985 was slower than in 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The unusually cold 1984/85 winter weather, unforeseen foreign exchange shortages, and a further decline in economic incentives were major factors responsible for the unsatisfactory economic performance last year. Rising production costs and falling world prices for agricultural exports reduced farm profitability, held back production, particularly of livestock, and slowed the pace of reform in some countries.

WEEKLY CATTLE SLAUGHTER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 36,900 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending May 10, 1986, as a result of the Dairy Termination Program. This includes all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals designated for disposition in compliance with the program requirements. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through May 10 is an estimated 332,900 head.

REVISE WHEAT STANDARDS?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to revise U.S. wheat standards by certifying dockage to the nearest one-tenth pct. The current dockage certification method understates dockage by rounding down the actual dockage to the nearest half or whole percent. Rounding to one tenth pct. is more precise, fair and should enhance the marketability of U.S. wheat traded in export markets. The proposal would also establish that wheat protein content be determined on a constant 12 pct. moisture basis, rather than the current "as is" basis. (Submit public comments by July 14 to Lewis Lebakken, Jr., USDA-FGIS, Room 1661-S, Wash., D.C. 20250. Or call 202-382-1738.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SCHOOL LUNCH!

On June 4, the National School Lunch Program marks its 40th birthday as an official federal program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cafeterias in about 90,000 schools all over the nation combine to serve more than 23 million students daily. Donated commodities make up about 30 pct. of the food. USDA provides more than 50 different kinds of food, including ground beef, chicken, turkey, canned fruits, fruit juices, vegetables, vegetable oil and flour. USDA is offering schools butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, flour, honey and rice through the bonus commodity program, in addition to the regular donated commodities.

WHEAT POLL

On June 18, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will begin to poll wheat producers to determine whether or not they favor the imposition of mandatory limits on wheat production. Producers will be asked if they favor imposition of mandatory limits on production of wheat which will result in wheat prices that are not lower than 25 pct. over the cost of production. Each producer will be mailed a wheat poll ballot on June 18. The poll is non-binding upon the Sec'y of Agriculture and response by wheat producers is voluntary.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

CURRENT U.S. EXPORT OUTLOOK...U.S. agricultural exports for 1986 are forecast at 27.5 billion dollars, 12 percent below 1985 exports. USDA economist Steve MacDonald discusses the current outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (196)

QUALITY OF U.S. GRAIN...Foreign buyer complaints about the quality of U.S. grain has touched off debate on the quality and grain standards issue. Dr. Kenneth Gilles, Administrator of USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, examines the grain quality issue. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (197)

WOOD PRODUCTS TO JAPAN...The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a major program to increase exports of wood products to Japan. USDA analyst Larry Blum talks about the "Summit House," a wooden 3-story house in Tokyo which demonstrates the latest U.S. timber frame construction techniques and products. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (198)

MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES FOR PORK PRODUCERS...Dick Kesler, University of Illinois, focuses on pork production and management strategies and factors producers should consider when raising pigs. Gary Beaumont interviews. (199)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION...A depressed farm economy has increased interest in alternative crops like fruits and vegetables. Farmers, however, shouldn't be too quick to jump into this business. John Gerber, University of Illinois, offers tips for market research. Gary Beaumont interviews. (200)

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1513...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Many countries around the world depend on the U.S. for producing grain surpluses for them to buy. However, Many countries compete with the U.S. for a share of the grain market. George Holmes takes an in-depth look.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1502...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Ethanol Assistance Program; A new soybean product; Yeoman and Yankee farmers; Reducing nitrate leeching.

CONSUMER TIME #995...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Avoiding food poisoning; Misleading energy claims; Camping and food safety; Eating in 2000; On the lamb.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, June 10, Weekly weather and crop report; Crop production report; Fri, June 13, Milk production report; Mon, June 16, Cattle on feed; Fri, June 20, Catfish report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, Kans) sent us a beautiful postcard picturing the Great Wall of China. His comment: "Unbelievable! But true!!" No doubt we'll learn more upon Hugh's return ... Speaking of returning, we're just back from the NAFB Regional Meeting in Spokane, Wash. Wex Simpson (KXLY, Spokane) put together a very good program, including a tour of the magnificent Palouse country. NAFB president Ken Root (KWCH/KBS, Hutchinson, Kans) and president-elect Evan Slack (Evan Slack Network, Denver, Colo) were there. Evan flew to Pullman and met the tour there, and the three of us toured the Palouse by air on the way back to Spokane. Also, two Mikes were there: Mike Smith (Intermountain Net/KGHL, Billings, Mont) and Mike Side (KRAK, Sacramento, Calif). Kinda like Mutt and Jeff and both athletic. The Sacramento Mike played pro football with the Steelers as center/linebacker (this was back when you played both ways and came out of the game only as a last resort to staying alive) and the Billings Mike is a rodeo bullrider (in fact he competed in a rodeo before coming to the meeting). We asked him about the dangers of bullriding, and he said it wasn't for him...that in all the years he's been rodeoing he's only broken his little finger, "And that wasn't the bull's fault." He says his favorite way to get off the bull is to relax when the whistle sounds and let the bull buck him clear. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? ... We heard about the NAMA meeting in Dallas and how successful the NAFB participation was... especially the NAFB hospitality suite. Seems some Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders posing as farm broadcasters Roddy Peeples (VSA, San Angelo, Tex), Ed Slusarczyk (Ag Radio Net, Utica, NY), Mark Vail (Kansas Ag Net, Topeka, Kans), and Jim Stewart (KFYO, Lubbock, Tex)...or was it the other way around?...were quite a hit. With legs like those, how could they lose? ... Note from Paul Simpkins. He's looking for a farm broadcaster position, preferably in the Southeast. He held a similar position at WBAM, Montgomery, Ala, from 1953-1984. Call him at 205-288-3920.

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

JUL 1 1986
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DEPOSITORY

Letter No. 2265 June 5, 1986

MYERS IS NEW DEPUTY SEC'Y

Peter Myers was sworn in on June 4 as Deputy Sec'y of Agriculture. Myers served as Asst. Sec'y of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment from May 16, 1985, until now. He was Chief of the Soil Conservation Service from April 1982 to May 1985.

COARSE GRAIN EXPORT FORECAST

The initial 1986/87 coarse grain export estimate projects U.S. exports at 49 million tons, up about 16 pct. from 1985/86, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most of the growth is expected in corn, up 5.2 million tons from 1985/86. However, lower U.S. sorghum prices and smaller competitors' export availabilities could also lead to expanded U.S. sorghum exports. The 1985/86 coarse grain forecast was lowered to 42.2 million tons from last month's figure of 44 million. Expected U.S. corn and sorghum exports fell 700,000 and 600,000 tons, respectively. Importers are waiting for an expected decline in grain prices.

1986/87 WHEAT EXPORT FORECAST

The initial 1986/87 (June-May) wheat export estimate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture call for U.S. exports to be up about 22 pct. from 1985/86 to 29.9 million tons. This is still well below previous export levels which averaged about 38.8 million tons annually over the past 5 years. Lower prices and increased world demand are behind the expected rise. The 1985/86 U.S. wheat export forecast remains unchanged from last month at 24.5 million tons.

WORLD MARKET SLOW

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, purchasing activity in the world wheat market remained relatively slow again this past month. Importers deferred purchases in possible anticipation of still lower world prices. Wheat purchases by Taiwan and Japan, together with about 175,000 tons of sales under the Export Enhancement Program - mostly to Egypt and Iraq - highlighted the May buying activity for U.S. exporters. The Soviet Union, which was virtually absent from the market in some weeks, reportedly bought about 600,000 tons of European Community feed wheat.

U.S.-CANADA TRADE TALKS

U.S. and Canadian agricultural leaders are scheduled to meet on June 10 in Washington, D.C. for a semi-annual consultation. U.S. Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng and Canadian Minister of Agriculture John Wise will lead the discussions.

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Radio-Television Division Phone (202) 447-4330 Washington D.C. 20250

1.34:

CANADA HELPS GRAIN FARMERS

In an effort to help grain farmers, the Canadian Wheat Board will raise maximum and minimum domestic wheat prices, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Effective August 1986, the maximum price will rise to 11 Canadian dollars per bushel from 7 Canadian dollars. And the minimum price will rise from 5 to 6 Canadian dollars. Any rise in the domestic price of wheat will increase revenue entering the Wheat Board's total wheat pool and thus, possibly give it more latitude in selling wheat overseas. Canada will also freeze farm freight rates at current levels and effectively remove excise taxes on fuels for farm use.

U.S.-SOVIET GRAIN TALKS

Another session of the regular, semi-annual U.S.-Soviet grain talks are being held in Moscow on June 9, and possibly June 10. The consultations will include a review of the worldwide and U.S.-USSR grain situations and the status of and prospects for shipments and sales under the agreement. Under Sec'y of Agriculture Daniel Amstutz is heading the U.S. delegation.

RECORD BEEF PURCHASES

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced the USDA's purchase of a record amount of red meat--almost 29 million pounds--to help offset the impact of beef brought to market as a result of the dairy termination program. Said Lyng, "Since the beginning of the 400-million-pound red meat purchase program, USDA has bought almost 120 million pounds at an approximate cost of $125.1 million, all of which is over and above our normal purchases for the school lunch and other feeding programs."

DESTINATIONS UNKNOWN

On June 2, private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 235,000 metric tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1986-87 marketing year. Also reported were purchases from foreign sellers of 340,000 tons of soft red winter wheat for delivery to unknown destinations during 1986-87. A purchase from a foreign seller is a transaction in which a U.S. exporter contracts to buy U.S.-produced commodities from a foreign firm.

1987 WHEAT PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced a 27½ pct. wheat acreage reduction and other provisions of the 1987 wheat program. Producers will be required to maintain in acreage conservation reserve an area equal to just under 38 pct. of planted wheat. The established target price will be $4.38 per bushel, the same as for the 1986 crop. No marketing quotas will be in effect for the 1987 crop.

1986 CROP GRAIN RESERVE LIMITS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the maximum amounts of grain for the 1986 crop of wheat and feed grains that may be stored under the farmer-owned grain reserve. The upper limits are 17 pct. for wheat and 7 pct. for feed grains of the estimated domestic and export usage of these grains during the 1986-87 marketing years. The USDA estimates those quantities at about 380 million bushels for wheat and 625 million bushels for feed grains. Entry into the reserve program will not be permitted for maturing 1986-crop wheat and feed grain loans if the quantities in the reserve from earlier crop years exceed the established upper limits for the grains at the time the 1986-crop loans mature.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

WESTERN WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK...Water supplies should be adequate to excellent for much of the West this summer, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Bill Fecks, with USDA's Soil Conservation Service, outlines the latest water supply forecast for the West. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (201)

EASTERN EUROPE...USDA economist Robert Cummings takes a look at the outlook for agricultural production in Eastern Europe this year and how this outlook will affect U.S. exports to these countries. Vic Powell interviews. (202)

ETHANOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM...The U.S. Department of Agriculture is currently proposing to begin a new ethanol assistance program as a means of aiding the gasohol industry. Earle Gavett, with USDA's Office of Energy, talks about some of the objectives of this program. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (203)

STORAGE FACILITIES FOR GRAIN...With large carryovers of grain and normal yields in 1986, there may not be enough grain storage space available. Darrel Good, with the University of Illinois, focuses on this situation and how farmers might deal with the problem. Gary Beaumont interviews. (204)

DAIRY COW COOLING RESEARCH...If we suffer in hot weather and our productivity drops, could it be the same with dairy cattle? Dennis Armstrong, University of Arizona, talks about research work underway to determine how to deal with this problem. Oscar Day interviews. (205)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event
United States Department of Agriculture

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1514...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition, Brenda Curtis visits the National Arboretum's National Country Garden. Her tour guide is Arboretum Director, Dr. Marc Cathey, who's narration provides a look into this whimsical yet serious garden that contains living walls of flowers, rose carpets, a floral teepee and gazebo.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1503...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Certificate redemption; Pollution robs farmers; The grain game; New cotton lines.

CONSUMER TIME #996...(Weekly reel of news features) Frozen dinners; Bad nutrition; The return of the peony; Daylillies and irises; The perennial comeback; Too tight neckties.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, June 16, Cattle on feed report; Tues, June 17, Weekly weather and crop report; Fri, June 10, Catfish production. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

John Burrow, after 12 years with KGNC, Amarillo, Tex, is leaving to work at KTRH in Houston. He will be working with Bill Zak, replacing Ben Oldag. For the time being at least, Radonna Long will "fly solo" at KGNC. John's first day on the job at KTRH is June 16 ... Max Stewart has moved from KMOX in St. Louis, MO, and is now working at KXOK, same city. He made the switch, June 2 ... We here in the D.C. area are wanting rain. Conditions are pointing to the dryest spring in history. Bruce Lease (KWOA, Worthington, Minn.) says they been having the opposite problem: "This has been the wettest spring since I have been in this area, which is 27 years. He goes on to talk about the activities farmers perform during a "normal" year, then adds, "But then in Minnesota we never have a normal year." ... Our Gary Crawford (USDA Radio) brought home the bacon this week or, more accurately, the NAGC Gold Screen Award for the second part of his two-part series on "The Farm Problem: A Problem of the Mind?" on our AGRICULTURE USA weekly radio tape documentary series. Gary also returned from a trip to Ohio where he again appeared as guest on the WRFD farm show in Columbus with Joe Cornely and Mike Ramsey ... Incidentally, if you hear a familiar voice on USDA Radio News Service and it sounds a lot like Doug Wakefield, you're right, it is. Doug is on contract with the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service to produce radio and television stories ... Jerry Reed (WIBX/NE Ag Net, Utica, NY) dropped us a note and newspaper clipping, and the note contained this plea: "No Les Nessman jokes, please!!" The article revealed why. It reported that Jerry received the Silver Cow (not Sow) Award at the Oneida County Dairy Princess Coronation banquet recently. Our congratulations (and no Les Nessman jokes, either) ... If you've been hungering for a copy of the "Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985," we have a free copy for you. As you might guess, it tells you all you'll want to know about the Farm Bill.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio and Television Division

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2266 June 12, 1986

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LYNG TO EUROPE

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng is traveling to Europe in mid-June to discuss trade and related issues with agricultural leaders from other countries. On June 18, Lyng will address the 12th ministerial session of the World Food Council in Rome. On June 20, Lyng will address the Coceral Conference in Munich. An on June 23, he'll meet informally with European Economic Community agricultural ministers in Luxembourg.

VISIT TO USSR

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that a three-member U.S. team will visit the Soviet on June 19-28 to study the country's winter grains industry. The visit is part of the U.S. - USSR agreement on cooperation in the field of agriculture. A Soviet team will visit the U.S. in July to study the economics of producing grain in arid areas.

STATEMENT BY LYNG & WISE

The following is part of a joint statement issued on June 10 by Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng and Canadian Minister of Agriculture John Wise. "It is important to move rapidly into a new round of trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and this new round must treat agricultural issues as a priority. ...We have agreed to meet again later this year in Ottawa."

CHERNOBYL AFTERMATH

Since the accident at Chernobyl, there's been little or no agriculture activity within a 30-kilometer radius around the site. In the exposed areas, the greatest impact on Soviet agriculture appears to be in the livestock sector, primarily milk and forage used to feed livestock...and vegetable and fruit production. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Soviets have indicated that slaughtering of livestock near the reactor has already taken place and monitoring of dairy products will continue for the near future.

WORLD COARSE GRAINS PROD.

The world production of coarse grains for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 814.8 million tons, down 4.2 million or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 3 pct. from the record 1985/86 crop. The European Community production is estimated at 83.6 million tons, down 2.5 million from last month. USSR coarse grains production is estimated at 96 million tons, down 2 million from last month, but 2 pct. above last year. East Europe production is estimated at 68.9 million tons, up 200,000 from last month.

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A21.34:

USSR CROP EST. DOWN

The estimate of the 1986 Soviet grain crop was reduced 5 million tons to 185 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Continued hot, dry weather over important grain areas reduced yield potential for the grain crops. Winter wheat production was reduced 2 million tons to 38 million. Spring barley production was lowered 2 million tons to 44 million. Spring wheat output was reduced one million tons to 39 million.

USSR IMPORTS FOR 1986/87

Soviet grain buying activity for the 1986/87 marketing year has been slow to develop with purchases to date estimated to total less than 2 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This compares with projected 1986/87 imports of 32 million tons, including 17 million tons of wheat, 14 million tons of coarse grains, and one million tons of rice, pulses and miscellaneous grains. The estimate of wheat and coarse grain imports were increased by a million tons each from last month's projection. The Soviets may continue to delay purchases in anticipation of further international grain market adjustments to the new U.S. farm programs.

USSR IMPORT EST. FOR 1985/86

During the past month, USSR grain buyers added modestly to purchases for delivery in 1985/86, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. and Argentina indicated some corn sales while the European Community continued to report small sales of both wheat and barley. With total commitments placed at over 27 million tons, the USSR appears to have basically covered 1985/86 import requirements.

USSR WHEAT SUPPLIES OFF

Soviet wheat supplies in 1986/87 are projected to total only around 93 million tons, the smallest in 11 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Despite prospects for a reduced wheat harvest, the USSR is not expected to significantly increase wheat imports. An estimated 33 million tons of wheat will be fed, the least since 1976/77. Coarse grain supplies in 1986/87 are estimated at 110 million tons.

WHEAT - 1985/86

World production of wheat for 1985/86 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 502.1 million tons, down 1.1 million or less than 1 pct. from last month and down 3 pct. from 1984/85, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Downward revisions were made for China, Australia and Eastern Europe.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION: 1986/87

The world production of wheat for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 504.4 million tons, down 6 million or less than 1 pct. from last month, but up less than 1 pct. from the 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 58.6 million tons, down 700,000 tons or 1 pct. from last month and down 11 pct. from last year's harvest. The decline is attributed to reduced winter wheat yields. USSR wheat production is estimated at 77 million tons, down 3 million or 4 pct. from last month and 8 pct. from last year. European Community production is est. at 75.4 million tons, down 1.8 million or 2 pct. from last month, but up 5 pct. from 1985. China wheat production is est. at 87.5 million tons, down 1 million or 1 pct. from last month but up 3 pct. from 1985. East Europe wheat production is estimated at 38.6 million tons, down 300,000 tons or 1 pct. from last month, but up 3 pct. from the 1985 crop.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE...The planting season is just about over in many areas of the U.S. and farmers are closely monitoring future weather patterns for crop development. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen gives the current weather update for the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (206)

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL PROGRAM...Farmers who last year saw their crops devoured by grasshoppers will get some relief with a "good neighbor" policy adopted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Don Husnik with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, describes the good neighbor policy for grasshopper control. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (207)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE UPDATE...U.S. agricultural exports last year to nations of the Western Hemisphere totaled $6 billion, accounting for 20 pct. of total exports, and registering a 13 pct. decline. USDA economist John Link examines the situation and outlook for the Western Hemisphere. Vic Powell interviews. (208)

SOUTHEAST ASIA...Southeast Asia has been a good market for U.S. exports, but last year the region's economy performed poorly due to slower growth in the U.S. and of world trade in general. USDA economist Albert Evans talks about factors contributing to this situation. Vic Powell interviews. (209)

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL...Heifer Project International (HPI) is a non-profit organization that has received a lot of attention for its outstanding work in volunteerism for world hunger. John Dieterly, mid-Atlantic regional director, talks about HPI and its involvement with USDA's Dairy Termination Program. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (210)

Food & Fitness
An Everyday Event

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1515...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Jim Johnson looks at efforts by the USDA to use employee ideas to increase efficiency and save your tax money.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1504...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Common program provisions for 1987 crops; The 1987 wheat program; Importing grain; Continued large supplies.

CONSUMER TIME #997...(Weekly reel of news features) Three nice dogwood varieties; Selecting luggage; An energy consciousness; The National Country Garden; Clothes labels have good info.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, June 18, Dairy outlook; Thurs, June 19, Tobacco outlook; Fri, June 20, Catfish production, World ag. outlook; Mon, June 23, Hogs and pigs report, Livestock slaughter; Tues, Poultry production, Crop and weather update; Wed, June 25, China ag. outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

NAFB president Ken Root (KWCH-TV/KBS, Hutchinson, Kans) was in town briefly at the conclusion of the U.S. Feedgrains European trip. And he's about to head out again, this time on the Soviet Union summer tour ... Speaking of travel, Hugh Robinson (KKOW, Pittsburg, Kans) is back from 3 weeks in China. His impression: Millions of people and most doing manual labor of some kind. He also said his wife won't be cooking Chinese meals for awhile, even though she took classes to learn how, because, "I've had enough to last me for awhile" ... We hear about a lot of different kinds of promotions farm broadcasters conduct, and there's an interesting variety. Don Wick (KGLR, Redwood Falls, Minn) reports his station's Farm Forty Free event was a great success. And NAFB "Chat"s editor Bob Quinn (WHO, Des Moines, Iowa) reports on similar types of promotions in the latest issue of "Chats." Sharing ideas in this column or in "Chats" is the name of the game, so if you have something others might enjoying knowing about, let us know ... Don also reports his wife Kolleen presented him with a second son following a Future Farmers of America banquet they both attended. Sounds like close timing ... Newest newsletter to hit our desk came from Doug Rubush. He's the new farm broadcaster at WSVA in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He replaced Homer Quann who retired recently ... We just finished a party here in the office for Jim Proctor on the occasion of his disability retirement (he suffered a stroke last October but is doing pretty good now). Jim was a member of radio tape duplication and mailing crew ... Two catch up items from the Western NAFB regional meeting: Terri-Rae Elmer (KFBK, Sacramento, Calif) was delayed in her flight to Spokane. The plane she was in blew a tire as it headed down the runway in San Francisco and barely stopped before reaching the end of the runway...and the Bay. And Jaime Kaestner (National Cattlemen's Assn., Englewood, Colo) lost her luggage getting to Spokane...and it's still lost!

Jim Johnson

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